

Southwest Region (2)

Overview

The Service's Southwest Region (Region 2) encompasses the States of Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. The diversity of landscapes and wildlife habitat found in the Southwest, along with the region's distinctive multicultural character, has stimulated innovative partnerships with land owners, tribes, local communities and other governmental entities. The Regional Office is located in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Resource Facts and Figures

- 43 National Wildlife Refuges totaling 2,884,136 acres
- 14 Fishery field stations including hatcheries, research, and conservation facilities.
- 7 Ecological Services field offices
- 21 Law Enforcement offices, including 8 port-of-entry inspection facilities.
- More than 3,444,820 refuge visitors last year
- 211 federally listed species: 54 in AZ, 45 in NM, 19 in OK, 93 in TX
- The Region has 834 FTEs

Regional Demographics

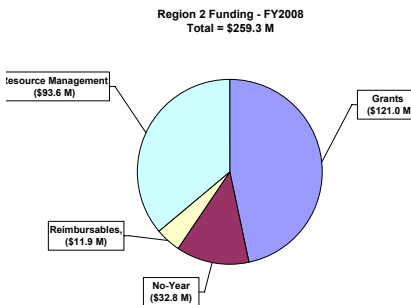
- 48 federal Congressional districts: 8 in AZ, 3 in NM, 5 in OK and 32 in TX
- 83 recognized Tribes: 22 in AZ, 21 in NM, 37 in OK and 3 in TX
- The region has a population of 35.83 million people, with 5.65 million rural residents
- Approximate percentage of land in federal ownership: 48.1% in AZ, 41.8% in NM, 3.6% in OK land and 1.9% in TX.

- The region has more than 11.5 million adults who, fish, hunt and watch wildlife. In FY 2008, provided \$77.3 million to state wildlife agencies to restore sport fish and wildlife, and improve habitats

Key Habitats and Ecosystems

Elevations in Region 2 range from sea-level to almost 13,000 feet and contribute to a collection of highly diverse habitats: from prairies dotted with playa lakes, to desert ecosystems (Chihuahuan, Sonoran and Mojave); from riparian and aquatic habitats, to sky-islands rising out of the desert shrub; and from forests and woodlands, to wetlands and barrier islands lining the western Gulf of Mexico.

Regional Budget



Conservation Successes and Challenges

Energy - The Southwest has the potential to help meet many of the demands for both traditional and alternative energy development including oil and gas, wind, and solar resources. Region 2 has led the way in developing collaborative relationships with the energy industry, especially the emerging wind power technology.

Border security - There are 158 border miles managed cumulatively within 3 Arizona and 2 Texas national wildlife refuges. As a result of traffic by illegal immigrants and drug smugglers, and resulting border enforcement actions, these

refuges are coping with significant resource damages and reduced safety for staff and visitors.

Relationships with Tribes - Region 2 is home to 83 sovereign tribal nations, and has worked diligently to establish a government-to-government relationship to ensure adequate consultation on policies and activities that could affect tribal governance and trust resources. However, efforts to manage wildlife, plants and habitat under the ESA can sometimes conflict with tribal traditional and cultural practices. The delisting of the Bald Eagle and changes to the eagle "take" permit process has been highly controversial with Arizona tribes.

Texas Gulf Coast - The challenges facing fish and wildlife conservation on the Texas Gulf Coast are serious and significant: population pressure, sea level rise, growing development pressure, invasive species, water use, and limited local and state funding. Region 2's Coastal Program has effectively delivered on-the-ground conservation assistance to its partners to conserve and protect this fragile and important area. However, Hurricane Ike was of a magnitude not seen in decades, and the conservation needs in Coastal Texas are now even greater.



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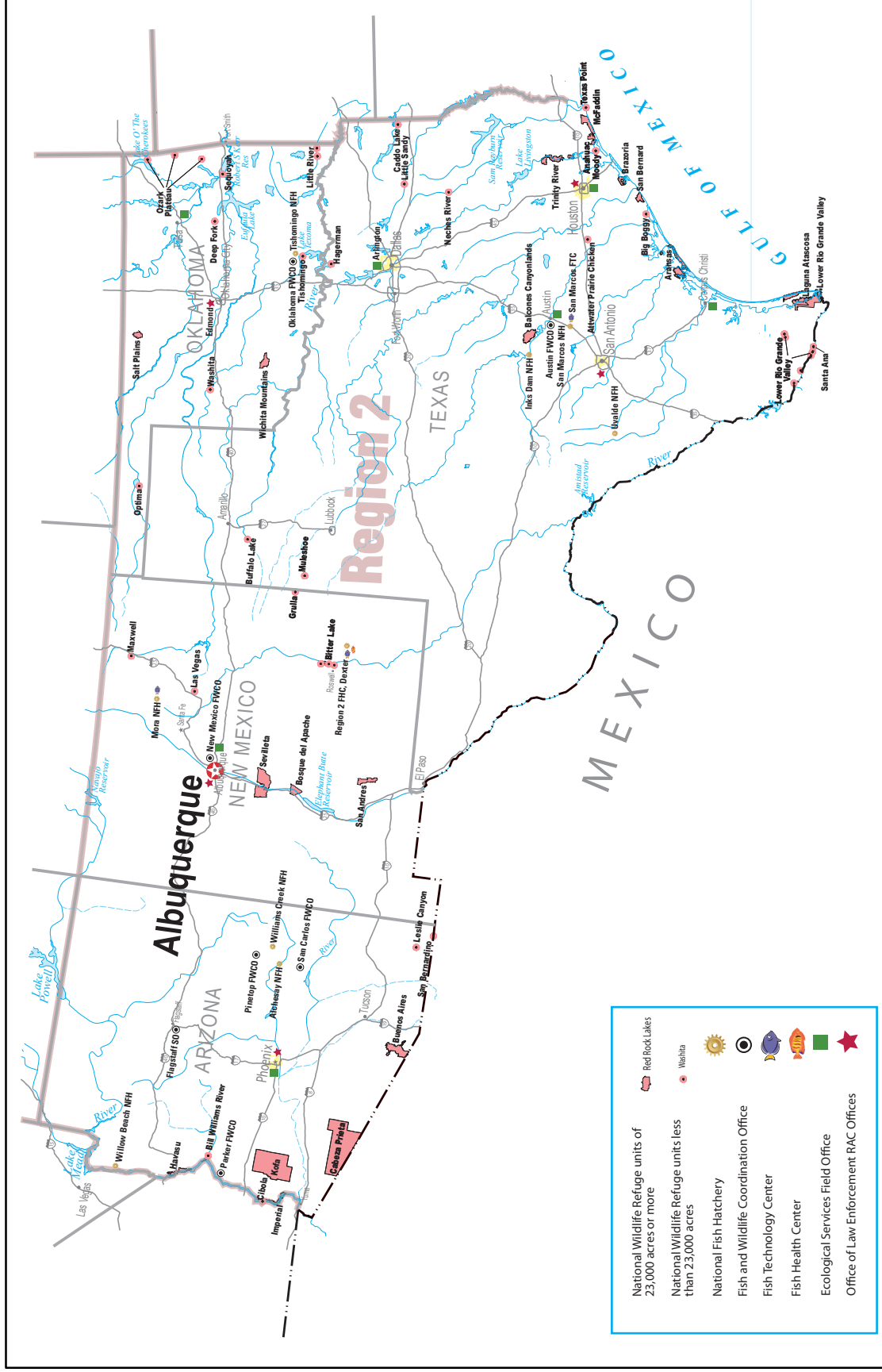
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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Region 2

Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas



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