

National Wildlife Refuge Fund

Appropriations Language

[For expenses necessary to implement the Act of October 17, 1978 (16 U.S.C. 715s), \$13,228,000.]
(*Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2014*).

Justification of Language Changes

Deletion of all language since language is no longer needed if program is eliminated as requested.
(Mandatory portion does not require appropriations language.)

Authorizing Statutes

Refuge Revenue Sharing Act (16 U.S.C. 715s), as amended. Authorizes payments to be made to offset tax losses to counties in which Service fee and withdrawn public domain lands are located.

Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), Section 1002 and Section 1008, 16 U.S.C. 3142 and 3148. These sections address the procedures for permitting oil and gas leases on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal plain (Section 1002) and other non-North Slope Federal lands in Alaska (Section 1008).

Appropriation: National Wildlife Refuge Fund

		2013 Actual	2014 Enacted	2015			Budget Request	Change from 2014 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs (+/-)	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)		
Appropriations	(\$000)	13,228	13,228	0	0	-13,228	0	-13,228
Receipts	(\$000)	7,950	7,851	0	0	+149	8,000	+149
Total, National Wildlife Refuge Fund	(\$000)	21,178	21,079	0	0	-13,079	8,000	-13,079
	FTE	9	9	0	0	0	9	0

The 2013 and 2014 amounts include sequestration in accordance with section 251A of the BBEDCA, 2 U.S.C.901a.

Summary of 2015 Program Changes for National Wildlife Refuge Fund

Request Component	(\$000)	FTE
• Appropriations	-13,228	0
TOTAL Program Changes	-13,228	0

Justification of 2015 Program Changes

The 2015 budget request for National Wildlife Refuge Fund is \$0 and +0 FTE, a program change of -\$13,228,000 and +0 FTE from the 2014 Enacted.

Appropriations (-\$13,228,000/ +0 FTE)

The Service proposes the elimination of the entire appropriated (discretionary) portion of this program. The mandatory receipts collected and allocated under the program would remain. Refuges often generate tax revenue for communities far in excess of that which was lost with Federal acquisition of the land. In addition, Refuge lands provide many public services and place few demands on local infrastructure such as schools, fire, and police services when compared to development that is more intensive.

National Wildlife Refuges had approximately 47.5 million visitors in 2013. Recreation opportunities provided by national wildlife refuges support local tourism, which supports local economies. Visitors stay in local lodges, eat at local restaurants, and shop in local stores. Local employment increases, and additional funding goes to local, county, and State governments from the additional tax revenues.

Banking on Nature: The Economic Benefits to Local Communities of National Wildlife Refuge Visitation by Erin Carver and James Caudill, Ph.D., Division of Economics, US Fish and Wildlife Service, October 2013, presents estimated FY 2011 visitor findings for a sample of 92 Service-owned lands. The original *Banking on Nature* report by the Service focusing on data for FY 2006, provided astounding estimates of visitors to Service-owned lands, the economic value to surrounding communities, and increases to local businesses.

Results for the 2011 sample presents a clear picture of the value NWRs have on local communities. The information for 2011 is:

- Approximately 46.5 million visitors during 2011, an increase of 29% over 2006
- Over \$2.4 million was spent by visitors to NWRs, an increase of 19% over 2006
- Over \$792 million was generated as Job Income, an increase of 21% over 2006
- 35,058 jobs with average income of \$22,612, an increase of 23% over 2006.

(Source: Table 11-1.2011 National Significance of Refuge Visitation by FWS Region, p.355)

Not only do Service lands contribute to local economies, they also improve local land values. According to the Executive Summary of *Amenity Values of Proximity to National Wildlife Refuges* prepared by the Center for Environmental and Resource Economic Policy at North Carolina State University in April 2012, property values surrounding refuges are higher than equivalent properties elsewhere. Most importantly, in an increasingly urban world, these sanctuaries of natural beauty offer Americans priceless opportunities to connect with nature.

Mandatory Receipts - The 2015 estimate for National Wildlife Refuge Fund revenue is \$8,000,000.

Program Overview

The *Refuge Revenue Sharing Act*, as amended, authorizes revenues and direct appropriations to be deposited into a special fund, the National Wildlife Refuge Fund (NWRF), and used for payments to counties in which lands are acquired in fee (fee land) or reserved from the public domain (reserved land) and managed by the Service. These revenues are derived from the sale or disposition of (1) products (e.g., timber and gravel); (2) other privileges (e.g., right-of-way and grazing permits); and/or (3) leases for public accommodations or facilities (e.g., oil and gas exploration and development) incidental to, and not in conflict with, refuge purposes.

The Act authorizes payments for Service-managed fee lands based on a formula contained in the Act that entitles counties to whatever is the highest of the following amounts: (1) 25 percent of the net receipts; (2) 3/4 of 1 percent of the fair market value of the land; or (3) 75 cents per acre. Every 5 years, appraisals may be updated to determine the fair market value.

If the net revenues are insufficient to make full payments for fee lands according to the formula contained in the Act, direct appropriations up to an amount equal to the difference between net receipts and full authorized payment may be authorized.

The refuge revenue sharing payments made on lands reserved from the public domain and administered by the Service for fish and wildlife purposes are always 25 percent of the net receipts collected from the reserved land in the county. If no receipts are collected, there is no revenue sharing payment. However, if authorized, the Department makes Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) (31 U.S.C. 6901-6907) on all public domain lands, including Service-reserved land. The Service annually reports to the Department all of our reserved land acres and the revenue sharing amount already paid on those acres. The Department then calculates the PILT amount, subtracts the amount the Service has already paid, and makes the PILT payment to the community.

The *Refuge Revenue Sharing Act* also provides for the payment of certain expenses incurred in connection with revenue producing activities. Such expenses include:

- Salaries of foresters who cruise and mark timber for sale;
- Staff salaries and supplies associated with maintenance of fences in support of grazing;
- Costs associated with sale of surplus animals and collecting refuge share of furs and crops;
- Costs of conducting land appraisals, processing, and maintaining the records.

Sections 1008 and 1009 of the *Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act* (ANILCA), 16 U.S.C. 3148, address procedures for oil and gas leasing on non-North Slope Federal lands in Alaska. Title XI of the Act, 16 U.S.C. 3161, addresses the procedures for transportation and utility systems in and across the Alaska conservation system units. An applicant pays the cost to process an application or administer a permit relating to utility and transportation systems or seismic exploration. Payments are deposited in the NWRF for reimbursement to the Region.

2015 Program Performance

According to current projections, payments to counties in 2015 will equal \$5,788,000 or 7 percent of the estimated full entitlement, based on appropriations of \$0 and \$5,788,000 of estimated receipts less expenses. In addition to payments to counties, national wildlife refuges provide tangible and intangible benefits to communities that bring increased tax revenues that may offset the reductions.

<i>(Dollars in Thousands)</i>				
	2013	2014	2015	
National Wildlife Refuge Fund	Actual	Estimate	Estimate	Program Change (+/-)
Receipts / Expenses				
Receipts Collected	7,950	7,851	8,000	0
Recoveries	82	100	100	0
Expenses for Sales	-1,928	-2,000	-2,000	0
ANILCA Expenses	-13	-13	-13	0
Estimated User-Pay Cost Share	-183	-150	-150	0
Net Receipts – Available during the following year	5,908	5,788	5,937	+149
Payments to Counties				
Receipts Available - collected previous year		5,908	5,788	-120
Appropriated		13,228	0	-13,228
Total Available for Payments to Counties		19,136	5,788	-13,348
Authorized Level		78,500	78,500	0
Percent Payment		24%	7%	-17%

Standard Form 300 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FUND			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars) Identification Code 010-18-5091	2013 Actual	2014 Estimate	2015 Estimate
0100 Balance, start of year	0	0	0
Receipts:			
0220 National Wildlife Refuge Fund [010-00-509110-0-200403]	8	8	8
0400 Total: Balance and Collections	8	8	8
Appropriations:			
0500 National Wildlife Refuge Fund [010-00-5091-0-1201]	-8	-8	-8
0502 National Wildlife Refuge Fund [010-00-5091-0-1232]	0	1	0
0599 Total appropriations	-8	-7	-8
0799 Balance, end of year	0	1	0
<u>Obligations by program activity:</u>			
0001 Expenses for sales	2	2	2
0002 Civilian Pay	1	1	1
0003 Payments to counties	16	16	6
0900 Total new obligations	19	19	9
<u>Budgetary Resources:</u>			
Unobligated balance:			
1000 Unobligated balance brought forward, Oct 1	4	6	8
1001 Discretionary unobligated balance brought fwd, Oct 1	0	1	0
<u>Budget authority:</u>			
Appropriations, discretionary:			
1100 Appropriation	14	13	0
1130 Appropriations permanently reduced	-1	0	0
1160 Appropriation, discretionary (total)	13	13	0
Appropriations, mandatory:			
1201 Appropriation (special or trust fund)	8	8	8
1232 Appropriations and/or unobligated balance of appropriations temporarily reduced	0	-1	0
1260 Appropriations, mandatory (total)	8	7	8
1900 Budget authority (total)	21	21	8
1930 Total budgetary resources available	25	27	16
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unexpired unobligated balance, end of year	6	8	7
<u>Change in obligated balance:</u>			
Unpaid obligations:			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct 1	2	1	0
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	19	19	9
3020 Outlays (gross)	-20	-20	-9
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year	1	0	0

Standard Form 300			
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FUND			
Program and Financing (in millions of dollars)	2013	2014	2015
Identification Code 010-18-5091	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
3100 Obligated balance, start of year	2	1	0
3200 Obligated balance, end of year	1	0	0
Budget authority and outlays, net:			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	13	13	0
Outlays, gross:			
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	13	13	0
4070 Budget authority, net (discretionary)	13	13	0
4080 Outlays, net (discretionary)	13	13	0
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	8	8	8
Outlays, gross:			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	6	6	6
4101 Outlays from mandatory balances	1	1	3
4110 Outlays, gross (total)	7	7	9
4160 Budget authority, net (mandatory)	8	8	8
4170 Outlays, net (mandatory)	7	7	9
4180 Budget authority, net (total)	21	21	8
4190 Outlays, net (total)	20	20	9

Object Classification (O)			
Direct obligations:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	1	1	1
25.2 Other services from non-Federal sources	1	1	1
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	16	16	7
99.0 Subtotal, obligations	18	18	9
99.5 Below reporting threshold	1	1	0
99.9 Total new obligations	19	19	9

Employment Summary (Q)			
1001 Direct civilian full-time equivalent employment	9	9	9