



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Washington, D.C. 20240




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In Reply Refer To:  
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## Memorandum

To: Assistant Director – National Wildlife Refuge System

From: Chief, Division of Realty 

Subject: Land and Water Conservation Fund Fiscal Year 2011  
Land Acquisition Priority List

Attached is the Land Acquisition Priority System (LAPS) list for FY 2011. It includes the component scores and cumulative scores for each project. The Service will use these rankings as a starting point for the FY 2011 land acquisition budget development process.

The LAPS is a numerical ranking “tool” based on Service trust resources objectives and priorities. We use the list to establish biologically based ranking for land acquisition. Numerical scores are assigned to four components (fisheries and aquatic resources, endangered species, migratory birds, and ecosystem conservation) and a project summary. The description of each of the elements is listed below.

Points are awarded in each component to yield a cumulative score for each project and produce a biological profile for each project. Only projects that have completed Decision Documents are ranked in this list.

We used the Fishery Program’s Populations database for the core of the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources component. The database provides greater biological resolution associated with the geographic areas which correspond with the U.S. Geological Survey’s four digit Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUC). Each HUC has a list of aquatic species that was validated by the Service’s Fishery Program. Other factors include the status and trends of aquatic populations; species diversity for trust resources, such as anadromous fish; critical habitats, including free flowing rivers; wetland types and trend status; and wetland losses by percent of a state’s historic wetland base.

The Endangered and Threatened Species component focuses on the recovery of species so they can be removed from the Endangered and Threatened Species list. Consideration is given to habitat and biological community integrity as well as species occurrences and the nature of use by the species within the project acquisition boundary.

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Avian experts from within the Service and throughout the scientific community developed Bird Conservation Region (BCR) lists of priority species. Over 69 BCR lists have been developed. We incorporated these lists into the Bird Conservation component. Emphasis is also placed on the 135 non-game species of management concern and priority waterfowl species identified in the North American Conservation Act.

The Ecosystem Conservation component incorporates a list of critically endangered, endangered and threatened ecosystems. This component considers biodiversity through distribution and abundance of rare communities; ecosystem decline and protection of native diversity of threatened ecosystems; landscape conservation by preserving large, intact habitats through conservation partnerships; and contributions to national plans and priority designations.

Finally, the Project Summary awards points according to the current degree of project completion and is intended to give an additional advantage to nearly completed projects.

If you have any questions, please contact Eric Alvarez, Chief, Division of Realty at (703) 358-1713.

Attachment

**FY 2011 Land and Water Conservation Fund  
Land Acquisition Priority System Component Scores**

Revised June 1, 2009

RANK	PROJECT	REGION	PROJECT SUMMARY	FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES	ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES	BIRD CONSERVATION	ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION	TOTALS
1	Alaska Maritime NWR, AK	7	50	121	200	195	190	756
2	National Key Deer Refuge, FL	4	0	147	200	179	200	726
3	St. Marks NWR, FL	4	25	166	200	129	200	720
4	Silvio O. Conte NW&FR, CT	5	0	174	200	162	160	696
5	Cache River NWR, AR	4	0	173	200	124	190	687
6	Laguna Atascosa NWR, TX	2	0	134	180	196	155	665
7	Savannah NWR, GA	4	0	161	200	149	150	660
8	Upper Mississippi River NW&FR, IA	3	10	172	88	198	190	658
9	Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR, TX	2	0	125	182	195	150	652
10	Dakota Tallgrass Prairie WMA, SD	6	0	103	161	188	195	647
11	North Dakota WMA, ND	6	0	137	114	193	200	644
12	Yukon Delta NWR, AK	7	50	158	82	192	155	637
13	Blackwater NWR, MD	5	0	173	200	97	160	630
14	Waccamaw NWR, SC	4	0	160	200	107	150	617
15	San Joaquin River NWR, CA	8	0	170	182	154	100	606
16	Togiak NWR, AK	7	50	144	78	177	155	604
17	Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR, MN/IA	3	0	151	176	68	200	595
18	Big Muddy NF&WR, MO	3	0	172	157	87	175	591
19	Chickasaw NWR, TN	4	0	136	200	98	155	589
20	Cypress Creek NWR, IL	3	0	170	153	100	165	588
21	San Bernard-Austin's Woods NWR, TX	2	0	159	60	191	150	560
22	Rocky Mountain Front CA, MT	6	0	81	93	185	195	554
23	Edwin B. Forsythe NWR, NJ	5	0	115	104	181	145	545
24	Nestucca Bay NWR, OR	1	0	179	97	159	110	545
25	Ottawa NWR, OH	3	0	161	167	129	85	542
26	Grasslands WMA, CA	8	0	66	180	167	125	538
27	Cahaba River NWR, AL	4	50	122	200	74	90	536
28	Nisqually NWR, WA	1	0	148	195	76	100	519
29	Trinity River NWR, TX	2	0	156	112	96	155	519
30	Bon Secour NWR, AL	4	0	140	200	96	75	511
31	Red Rock Lakes NWR, MT	6	0	124	63	117	200	504
32	Balcones Canyonlands NWR, TX	2	0	87	200	75	140	502
33	Cape May NWR, NJ	5	0	126	82	169	120	497
34	Rachel Carson NWR, ME	5	0	159	95	154	85	493

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35	Yukon Flats NWR, AK	7	50	122	2	164	155	493
36	San Diego NWR, CA	8	0	30	190	99	170	489
37	Alligator River NWR, NC	4	0	158	86	82	145	471
38	Ozark Plateau NWR, OK	2	0	95	200	43	130	468
39	Middle Mississippi River NWR, MO	3	0	188	93	69	115	465
40	Willapa NWR, WA	1	25	121	100	159	60	465
41	Driftless Area NWR, IA	3	0	143	200	43	75	461
42	Cat Island NWR, LA	4	0	139	129	81	110	459
43	Innokko NWR, AK	7	50	139	2	78	190	459
44	Emiquon NWR, IL	3	0	182	66	85	125	458
45	Buenos Aires NWR, AZ	2	25	13	200	114	105	457
46	Clarks River NWR, KY	4	0	141	131	93	80	445
47	Lost Trail NWR, MT	6	10	134	96	64	140	444
48	Upper Ouachita NWR, LA	4	0	157	57	90	135	439
49	Blackfoot Valley WMA, MT	6	10	104	85	71	165	435
50	Little River NWR, OK	2	25	109	111	56	125	426
51	Back Bay NWR, VA	5	0	136	83	91	105	415
52	Eastern Shore of VA NWR, VA	5	0	110	54	185	65	414
53	Petit Manan NWR, ME	5	0	150	81	127	55	413
54	Red River NWR, LA	4	0	146	67	96	100	409
55	Kanutu NWR, AK	7	50	103	2	59	190	404
56	Sacramento River NWR, CA	8	0	173	118	36	75	402
57	Patoka River NWR, IN	3	0	135	70	91	105	401
58	Minnesota Valley NWR, MN	3	0	152	18	75	155	400
59	Stewart B. McKinney NWR, CT	5	0	146	83	90	80	399
60	Tensas River NWR, LA	4	0	149	38	65	140	392
61	Panther Swamp NWR, MS	4	10	67	115	98	100	390
62	Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR, TX	2	0	20	200	75	90	385
63	Cherry Valley NWR, PA	5	0	113	81	77	110	381
64	Bombay Hook NWR, DE	5	0	161	5	184	30	380
65	Stone Lakes NWR, CA	8	0	86	127	48	110	371
66	James Campbell NWR, HI	1	50	123	154	30	10	367
67	Sevilleta NWR, NM	2	50	90	65	49	110	364
68	Tualatin River NWR, OR	1	0	137	54	95	75	361

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69	Detroit River IWR, MI	3	0	142	29	84	95	350
70	Lake Umbagog NWR, ME	5	0	81	22	65	180	348
71	Black Bayou Lake NWR, LA	4	0	108	58	89	90	345
72	Kilauea Point NWR, HI	1	0	147	159	31	5	342
73	Rappahannock River Valley NWR, VA	5	0	137	51	57	95	340
74	Ridgefield NWR, WA	1	10	66	73	130	50	329
75	Rainwater Basin WMD, NE	6	25	26	57	149	70	327
76	Canaan Valley NWR, WV	5	0	55	54	52	165	326
77	Neches River NWR, TX	2	0	127	35	64	100	326
78	Hart Mountain NAR, OR	1	50	39	10	45	180	324
79	Sheldon NWR, OR	1	50	39	20	33	180	322
80	Marais des Cygnes NWR, KS	6	0	88	117	19	95	319
81	Supawna Meadows NWR, NJ	5	0	159	27	84	27	310
82	Cokeville Meadows NWR, WY	6	0	101	40	64	100	305
83	John H. Chafee NWR, RI	5	0	142	48	58	30	278
84	James River NWR, VA	5	25	134	17	51	45	272
85	Arapaho NWR, CO	6	10	69	22	59	110	270
86	Moosehorn NWR, ME	5	10	120	31	44	65	270
87	Glacial Ridge NWR, MN	3	0	74	29	69	95	267
88	Great Swamp NWR, NJ	5	10	74	53	64	60	261
89	Walkkill River NWR, NY	5	0	24	52	70	115	261
90	Deep Fork NWR, OK	2	0	98	43	76	25	242
91	Turnbull NWR, WA	1	0	52	39	38	105	234
92	Bear River MBR, UT	6	0	20	0	103	100	223
93	Conboy Lake NWR, WA	1	0	49	5	35	20	109