



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To:
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MAY 21 2010

Memorandum

To: Assistant Director – National Wildlife Refuge System

From: Chief, Division of Realty *Janet Bruner, Acting*

Subject: Land and Water Conservation Fund Fiscal Year 2012
Land Acquisition Priority List

Attached is the Land Acquisition Priority System (LAPS) list for FY 2012. It includes the component scores and cumulative scores for each project. The Service will use these rankings as a starting point for the FY 2012 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, Bird Conservation, and Landscape) 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 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 is now known as the Landscape component. It 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 gives an additional advantage to nearly completed projects. The LAPS team added some items to the Project Summary page. The Secretary's priorities are now listed, as well as the "C/CC" percentage, which stands for Connectivity/Climate Change. The LAPS team identified 153 points within the existing components that related to connectivity and climate change. An individual project's score in those specific criteria divided by 153 yields that project's C/CC percentage. This percentage does not directly affect a project's overall score, but it does provide more information.

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

Attachment

FY 2012 LAPS PROJECT LIST

May 13, 2010

	Project Name	Region	Bonus Completion Points	Component Fisheries Points	Component Endangered Species Points	Component BCR Points	Component Landscape Points	Total_Points
1	Alaska Maritime NWR, AK	7	50	121	200	189	195	755
2	Silvio O. Conte NF&WR, CT,NH,VT,MA	5	0	167	200	160	194	721
3	Laguna Atascosa NWR, TX	2	0	134	180	196	200	710
4	St. Marks NWR, FL	4	25	156	200	128	200	709
5	Cache River NWR, AR	4	0	174	200	144	188	706
6	Savannah NWR, SC	4	0	162	200	182	148	692
7	Lower Suwannee NWR, FL	4	0	171	200	130	172	673
8	Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR, TX	2	0	125	182	198	158	663
9	Upper Mississippi River NW&FR, IA	3	10	172	88	188	188	646
10	Waccamaw NWR, SC	4	0	160	200	100	182	642
11	Yukon Delta NWR, AK	7	50	158	82	184	160	634
12	Ernest F. Hollings ACE Basin NWR, SC	4	0	160	200	146	123	629
13	San Joaquin River NWR, CA	8	0	170	197	165	90	622
14	North Dakota WMA, ND	6	0	137	114	163	200	614
15	Togiak NWR, AK	7	50	144	78	182	160	614
16	Blackwater NWR, MD	5	0	173	200	74	152	599
17	Northern Tallgrass Prairie NWR, MN	3	0	151	176	70	200	597
18	Cape Romain NWR, SC	4	0	159	162	118	158	597
19	Dakota Tallgrass Prairie WMA, SD	6	0	103	161	134	195	593
20	Big Muddy NF&WR, MO	3	0	172	157	87	176	592
21	Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area, KS	6	0	78	139	175	200	592
22	Chickasaw NWR, TN	4	0	146	200	93	146	585
23	Cypress Creek NWR, IL	3	0	170	153	95	162	580
24	McFaddin NWR, TX	2	10	127	140	157	141	575
25	Anahuac NWR, TX	2	0	133	139	155	136	563
26	Hakalau Forest NWR, HI	1	50	9	200	177	125	561
27	Balcones Canyonlands NWR, TX	2	0	150	200	67	140	557
28	Nestucca Bay NWR, OR	1	0	179	97	160	115	551
29	Lower Hatchie NWR, TN	4	0	146	200	93	110	549
30	San Bernard NWR -Austin's Woods, TX	2	0	159	60	189	140	548
31	Edwin B. Forsythe NWR, NJ	5	0	115	104	172	146	537
32	Grasslands WMA, CA	8	0	66	180	170	121	537
33	Humboldt Bay NWR, CA	8	0	130	199	157	50	536
34	Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Area, MT	6	0	81	93	161	200	535
35	Ottawa NWR, OH	3	0	161	167	117	80	525
36	San Pablo Bay NWR, CA	8	0	177	133	115	95	520
37	St. Vincent NWR, FL	4	0	159	186	78	95	518

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38	Nisqually NWR, WA	1	0	148	195	68	95	506
39	Pelican Island NWR, FL	4	25	131	200	48	100	504
40	Cape May NWR, NJ	5	0	126	82	176	118	502
41	Yukon Flats NWR, AK	7	50	122	2	167	160	501
42	Prime Hook NWR, DE	5	25	156	72	176	60	489
43	Lost Trail NWR, MT	6	50	134	96	61	145	486
44	Trinity River NWR, TX	2	0	156	112	70	146	484
45	Red Rock Lakes NWR, MT	6	0	124	63	96	200	483
46	Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR, TX	2	0	20	200	175	85	480
47	Willapa NWR, WA	1	25	131	118	137	65	476
48	Sacramento River NWR, CA	8	0	177	126	95	75	473
49	Rachel Carson NWR, ME	5	0	159	95	132	80	466
50	Grand Bay NWR, MS	4	0	147	153	91	75	466
51	Tulare Basin WMA, CA	8	0	30	184	153	95	462
52	Cahaba River NWR, AL	4	0	112	200	62	85	459
53	Middle Mississippi River NWR, MO	3	0	188	93	64	112	457
54	Innoko NWR, AK	7	50	139	2	71	195	457
55	Crystal River NWR, FL	4	0	151	174	65	66	456
56	Upper Ouachita NWR, LA	4	0	157	57	91	140	445
57	Alligator River NWR, NC	4	0	158	86	59	141	444
58	Lake Wales Ridge NWR, FL	4	0	35	196	48	165	444
59	Cat Island NWR, LA	4	0	139	129	57	115	440
60	San Diego NWR, CA	8	0	30	190	33	185	438
61	Blackfoot Valley WMA, MT	6	10	104	85	68	165	432
62	Santee NWR, SC	4	0	142	56	58	172	428
63	Cherry Valley NWR, PA	5	0	113	81	111	107	412
64	Kanuti NWR, AK	7	50	103	2	60	195	410
65	Minnesota Valley NWR, MN	3	0	152	18	75	160	405
66	Back Bay NWR, VA	5	0	136	83	89	95	403
67	Red River NWR, LA	4	0	146	67	77	105	395
68	Patoka River NWR, IN	3	0	135	70	88	100	393
69	Panther Swamp NWR, MS	4	0	67	115	81	125	388
70	Tensas River NWR, LA	4	0	139	40	67	136	382
71	Marais des Cygnes NWR, KS	6	0	88	117	80	90	375
72	Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, MI	3	0	142	29	106	96	373
73	Bombay Hook NWR, DE	5	0	161	5	176	25	367
74	Tualatin River NWR, OR	1	0	137	54	95	75	361

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75	Stone Lakes NWR, CA	8	0	86	127	39	100	352
76	Sheldon NWR, OR	1	50	39	25	45	190	349
77	Canaan Valley NWR, WV	5	0	65	54	63	165	347
78	Umbagog NWR, ME, NH	5	0	81	22	53	190	346
79	Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge, OR	1	50	39	10	57	190	346
80	Rappahannock River Valley NWR, VA	5	0	137	51	57	90	335
81	Great Dismal Swamp NWR, VA	5	50	95	12	43	131	331
82	Neches River NWR, TX	2	0	127	35	56	100	318
83	Currituck NWR, NC	4	0	123	88	73	30	314
84	Shiawassee NWR, MI	3	0	101	40	82	85	308
85	Crane Meadows NWR, MN	3	0	110	40	67	80	297
86	Bear River MBR, UT	6	0	20	16	153	105	294
87	Supawna Meadows NWR, NJ	5	0	159	27	72	35	293
88	Arapaho NWR, CO	6	10	69	22	70	120	291
89	Cokeville Meadows NWR, WY	6	0	101	40	52	95	288
90	John H. Chafee NWR, RI	5	0	142	48	61	30	281
91	Glacial Ridge NWR, MN	3	0	74	29	71	96	270
92	Ninigret NWR, RI	5	0	113	54	63	40	270
93	James River NWR, VA	5	25	134	17	54	40	270
94	Trustom Pond NWR, RI	5	0	118	54	63	35	270
95	Walkkill River NWR, NY	5	0	24	52	75	117	268
96	Bayou Teche NWR, LA	4	0	85	40	61	75	261
97	Great Swamp NWR, NJ	5	10	74	53	66	55	258
98	Deep Fork NWR, OK	2	0	98	43	81	25	247
99	Baca NWR, CO	6	10	25	0	47	146	228
100	Montezuma NWR, NY	5	0	57	6	118	45	226
101	Turnbull NWR, WA	1	0	52	39	29	100	220
102	Neal Smith NWR, IA	3	0	40	24	69	80	213
103	Aroostook NWR, TX	5	0	18	16	0	90	124
104	Conboy Lake NWR, WA	1	0	49	5	25	20	99