



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Mission

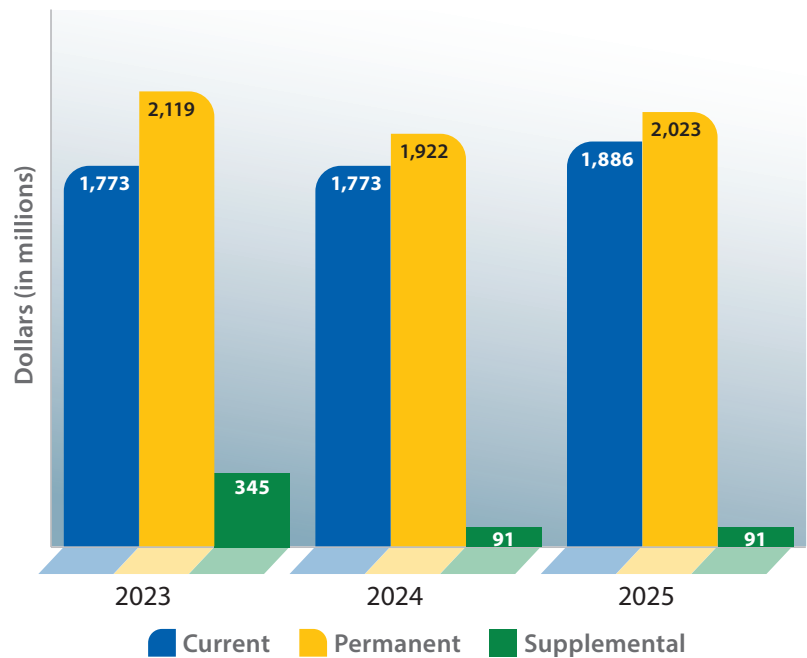
The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is to work with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

Budget Overview

The 2025 President's Budget for FWS totals \$1.9 billion, \$112.8 million above the 2024 continuing resolution (CR). In total, FWS estimates the budget request will support 9,183 full-time equivalents (FTEs). The 2025 budget request for the principal FWS operating account, Resource Management, is \$1.7 billion, an increase of \$150.9 million. The budget proposes to increase the percentage of funds available to administer the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act to support outreach to boost awareness of both programs while continuing compliance- and technical assistance-related activities. In addition, the 2025 budget proposes to lower the match requirement for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act to increase opportunities to support bird conservation activities.

The 2025 budget continues the proposal to expand authority for Federal agencies to transfer funds provided under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) to FWS to accelerate and improve environmental reviews in support of responsible development of priority infrastructure projects and

FWS Funding



energy solutions. Increases are proposed for law enforcement programs to address wildlife interdiction within the Wildlife Inspection Program, capacity for Refuge Law Enforcement, and officer mental health and wellness. The budget also includes increases for the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs), the National Seed Strategy, and the Customer Experience initiative (as directed in Executive Order 14058) and improves customer service through a consolidated, modernized ePermits program. The 2025 budget promotes investments to address climate change effects on FWS trust resources, implement the America the Beautiful initiative, reconnect Americans with the outdoors, enable economic development, and create good-paying job opportunities.

Resource Management

For Ecological Services, the budget includes \$338.2 million to conserve, protect, and enhance listed and at-risk fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats. The budget supports the Administration's efforts to responsibly site, permit, and deploy



- FWS originated in 1871 when Congress established the U.S. Fish Commission to study why the Nation's food fish populations were decreasing and recommend ways to reverse that decline.
- Through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, more than 50,000 landowners have cooperated with FWS to complete more than 60,000 habitat restoration projects spanning more than 7 million acres.
- The National Wildlife Refuge System's more than 850 million acres of lands and waters include 570 wildlife refuges, 7 national monuments, and waterfowl production areas in 212 counties managed within 38 wetland management districts and 48 coordination areas.
- Since 1937, FWS has delivered more than \$26 billion to State and Tribal fish and wildlife agencies for hunting and fishing education, fish and wildlife management, scientific research, habitat restoration and conservation, and hunting and boating access.

clean energy solutions, including \$146.6 million, \$25.8 million more than the 2024 CR level, for FWS planning and consultation activities. Requested funding will advance proactive, cooperative conservation with investments in programs aimed at preventing the listing of species under the Endangered Species Act and promoting the recovery of imperiled species. The request provides \$41.2 million, \$3.5 million above the 2024 CR amount, to support conservation of at-risk species and their habitats and \$23.9 million for listing. Within the \$126.4 million provided for recovery, an increase of \$12.3 million from the 2024 CR level will support delisting and downlisting efforts and catalyze the conservation of imperiled species.

The 2025 budget for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is \$68.1 million, \$7.8 million more than the 2024 CR level, and the Coastal Program request is \$14.6 million, \$690,000 more than the 2024 CR amount, in recognition of the importance of cooperative conservation of private lands to habitat adaptation and resilience and a healthy economy. These citizen-centric programs work collaboratively with private landowners and partners through voluntary efforts to restore, enhance, and protect habitat for priority Federal trust species. The projects provide other benefits to the local communities, such as enhancing drought resistance through water conservation projects, creating resilience to wildfire, and supporting habitat connectivity and migration corridors for game and other plants and animals of cultural significance.

The National Wildlife Refuge System is a model for conservation around the world. The 2025 budget for the refuge system is \$602.3 million, \$60.8 million above the 2024 CR level. Funding for operations—including wildlife and habitat management, visitor services, refuge law enforcement, and planning—is \$442.3 million to support the FWS core mission to increase adaptive management, habitat resilience, and the use of science-driven decision making for conserving America's rich fish and wildlife heritage. The budget for those programs is \$50.9 million more than the 2024 CR amount, including \$200,000 in the Customer Experience initiative for a position focused on expanding the use of digital sites and activity passes at National Wildlife Refuges, \$17.1 million for refuge law enforcement to increase visitor safety and officer mental health and wellness, and \$1.9 million to support the National Seed Strategy. The request for Refuge Maintenance is \$160.1 million, an increase of \$9.8 million above the 2024 CR level.

Migratory Bird Management is funded at \$73.1 million in the 2025 budget, \$19.2 million more than the 2024 CR level. Within that amount is funding to modernize the permitting process to enable the use of the latest scientific information and energy production technologies when evaluating development proposals. The Joint Venture program will support grants to improve the resilience of important habitats—and nearby communities—across the Nation's four migratory bird flyways. The program's Urban Bird Treaties grants support partnerships to conserve birds in

urban environments by creating parks and restoring nearby wetlands—all while engaging local communities.

Since the launch of the ePermits system in 2021, FWS has continued to improve how customers apply for and receive permits while bringing greater efficiency and consistency to the work FWS does to process those applications. This budget consolidates \$13.5 million, \$6.0 million more than the 2024 CR amount, for ePermits system operations and enhancements into a single program, supporting the transition of more permit types to fully online, self-service processes that will improve the customer experience.

The Service’s Office of Law Enforcement is funded at \$110.8 million in the request, an increase of \$18.7 million from the 2024 CR level. This program investigates wildlife crimes and enforces the laws that govern the Nation’s wildlife trade. FWS continues to work with the State Department, other Federal agencies, and foreign governments to address the threat to conservation

and global security posed by illegal wildlife trade and trafficking. The budget supports law enforcement efforts to stop illegal trade; ensures sustainable legal trade through the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; reduces the demand for illegal wildlife products; and provides technical assistance and grants to other nations to build local enforcement capabilities. Included in this increase is \$10.0 million for wildlife inspection activities. Wildlife inspectors combat a multibillion-dollar black market trade in wildlife, which fuels species extinction and organized crime; emerging zoonotic threats often linked to wildlife trade; and invasive species, which cause ecological disruptions that devastate ecosystems and economies. The budget also supports mental health and wellness activities and other recommendations from the DOI Law Enforcement Task Force.

FWS provides international conservation grants and technical support to assist other countries’ conservation and climate change adaptation and resilience efforts. The budget includes \$24.0 million,



Wildlife Inspector with his K-9.

FWS Photo.

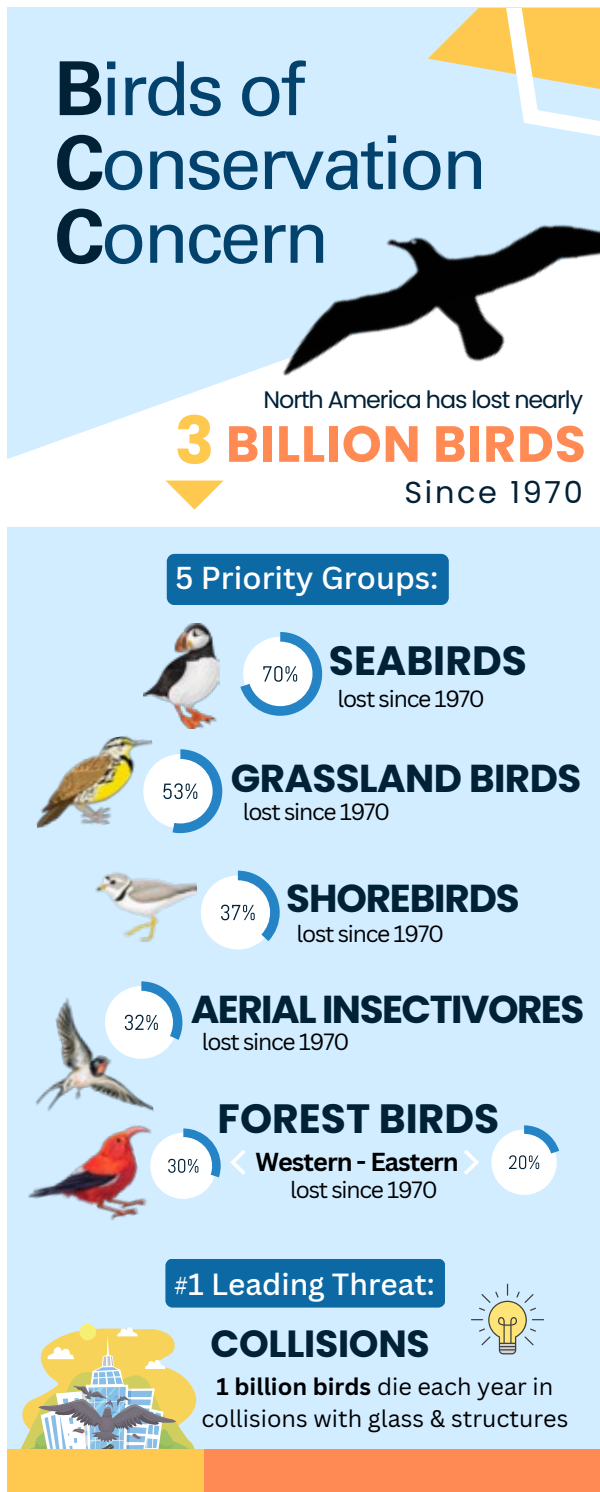
\$2.4 million more than the 2024 CR amount, for International Affairs to support expanded conservation capacity for iconic species such as elephants and rhinoceroses and to support climate adaptation and resiliency efforts. The request includes funding for an evaluation designed to determine the impact and effectiveness of the

program's support for species conservation abroad. The program complements FWS Law Enforcement efforts to reduce illegal wildlife trafficking and develops innovative conservation activities that target market and consumer demand for illegal products driving a rapid increase in the poaching of species such as tigers and pangolins.

The budget requests \$239.3 million, \$2.2 million less than the 2024 CR amount, to support the National Fish Hatchery System, aquatic habitat conservation and restoration, and the prevention and control of aquatic invasive species. That amount includes \$80.3 million for operation of the National Fish Hatchery System and \$32.1 million for National Fish Hatchery maintenance, \$3.9 million and \$5.8 million, respectively, more than the 2024 CR amount. The National Fish Hatchery System is an international leader in the propagation of imperiled aquatic species, and the budget expands its capabilities to ensure the health of aquatic species. Advancing aquatic conservation requires modernizing and maintaining hatchery infrastructure, which is not eligible for funding under the Great American Outdoors Act. The budget also includes \$126.9 million for Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation. The request includes \$2.6 million to continue the Rapid Response Fund for Aquatic Invasive Species under the Early Detection and Rapid Response Framework, fully funds the National Fish Habitat Action Plan at the authorized level, and provides for aquatic species assessments and cooperative management to enhance habitat adaptation and resilience.

Twenty National Fish Habitat Partnership projects leverage Federal, State, Tribal, and private funding to conserve fish habitat. Partnerships are formed around distinct geographic areas, important fish species, or ecosystems and identify and prioritize fish habitat conservation projects for funding within their boundaries, guided by individual strategic plans.

The 2025 request for Science Applications is \$37.9 million, \$2.5 million above the 2024 CR level. The program supports science partnerships



with States, Tribes, industry, local communities, and other stakeholders to design and implement conservation and habitat management strategies that support the development of landscape conservation objectives, such as biodiversity, adaptation, and resilience. By weaving together conservation design principles and local conservation blueprints, the collaborations increase coastal resilience, mitigate desertification, control invasive species, and reduce the impacts of wildfires.

General Operations is funded at \$183.8 million in the 2025 budget, an increase of \$17.5 million from

the 2024 CR amount, including \$500,000 to support the Customer Experience initiative, \$7.0 million to support the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and \$28.2 million to support the National Conservation Training Center.

The budget continues proposed authority for FWS to seek and retain compensation from responsible parties who injure or destroy resources managed by FWS. As with the National Park Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), damages recovered will be used to reimburse assessment costs; prevent or minimize the risk of loss; monitor ongoing effects; and restore,

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Removing Barriers to Fish Migration

Across the country, millions of barriers are fragmenting rivers, blocking fish migration, and putting communities at higher risk of flooding. Addressing these barriers and improving fish passage is one of the most effective ways to help conserve vulnerable species while building safer infrastructure for communities and improving climate resilience. Restoring aquatic connectivity also supports local economies by providing jobs and safeguarding aging infrastructure. The BIL provided a \$200 million additional investment over 5 years to restore aquatic ecosystems through the National Fish Passage Program (NFPP). In the first 2 years of BIL funding, the program has funded 79 projects across the country.

When complete, those projects will create roughly 6,200 miles of unimpeded stream habitat, helping to conserve vulnerable species. The first two decades of the NFPP provided the foundation for the BIL funds to be put to work quickly and effectively through agency technical expertise, existing and expanded partnerships, and a robust pipeline of projects in development. The investment in NFPP through the BIL is benefiting local economies and enabling FWS to address larger, more complex projects, providing greater impact for ecosystems and communities. Improving fish passage is the one of the most effective ways to both conserve vulnerable aquatic species and improve the safety and resilience of infrastructure for communities while creating better economic values and water quality. The President's Budget request for 2025 complements the BIL funding

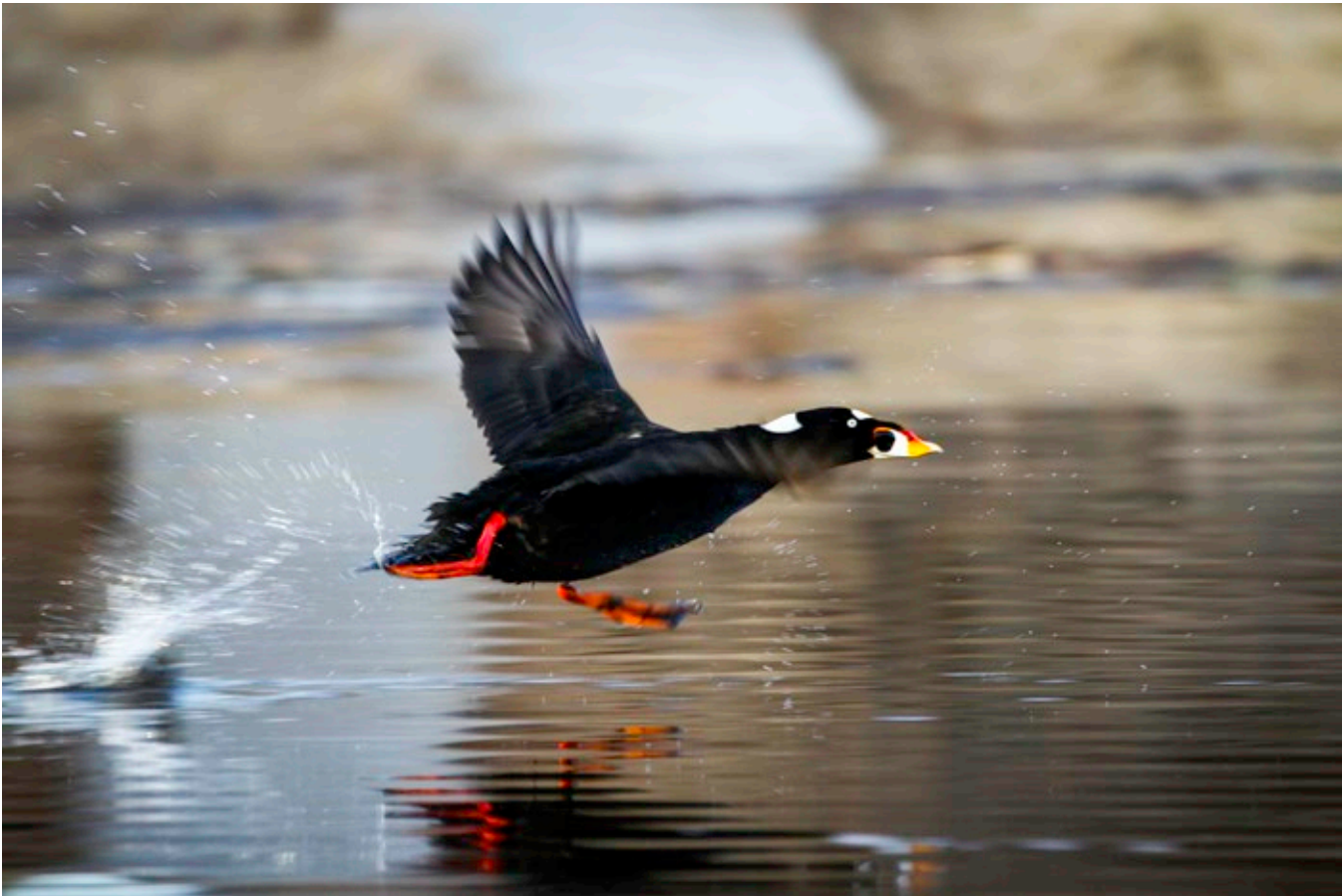


Lost River sucker.

FWS Photo.

to build on successes of the National Fish Passage Program and ensure continued and long-term durability of the program.

The BIL also provided unprecedented funding to multiple Federal agencies to fund projects that remove instream barriers and improve fish passage. FWS convened 13 Federal agencies and helped form the Federal Interagency Fish Passage Task Force, which promotes the benefits of fish passage projects, provides technical advice and capacity across Federal agencies, and better coordinates funding, aiming to create transformational impact across the landscape. The first year of the Task Force has led to new partnerships, increased efficiency, and developed funding models that lead to better outcomes for people and nature.



Surf scoter taking off.

FWS Photo.

replace, or acquire resources equivalent to those injured or destroyed.

Construction

Construction is funded in the 2025 budget at \$32.2 million, \$2.3 million more than the 2024 CR level, including \$21.0 million for line-item construction projects. The budget includes \$2.1 million to support vehicle fleet replacement, requirements analysis, capability assessment, and ZEV charging infrastructure planning and development as part of a coordinated effort across DOI.

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

The budget requests \$14.4 million, \$10.1 million less than the 2024 CR level, for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund to support State and local efforts to recover listed species. The budget also proposes funding for Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition Grants to

States through the permanent Land and Water Conservation Fund.

North American Wetlands Conservation Fund

For the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund, the 2025 budget request is \$33.0 million, \$17.0 million less than the 2024 CR level. Conservation grants from the fund are leveraged more than 1:1 with partners for wetlands and waterfowl conservation, supporting climate adaptation and resiliency and important outdoor activities for sportspeople. The budget proposes to increase the amount of funding available to administer the program from 4 percent to 7 percent to increase technical assistance, compliance monitoring, performance, and outreach and awareness efforts.

Multinational Species Conservation Fund

The 2025 budget includes \$21.0 million, unchanged from the 2024 CR level, for the Multinational

Species Conservation Fund. These grants support the conservation and protection of African and Asian elephants, rhinoceroses, tigers, great apes, and marine turtles and leverage funds from partners to nearly triple the available funding for those species, which will foster improved species management and reduce human–animal conflicts.

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund

The 2025 request maintains the 2024 CR level of \$5.1 million for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund. Populations of neotropical birds, such as the goldfinch, have declined due to climate change and habitat loss. The budget proposes to increase the amount of funding available to administer the program from 3 percent to 5 percent to expand technical assistance and outreach and awareness efforts. The budget also proposes to lower the match requirement for these grants from a 3:1 match to a 1:1 match to increase opportunities for applicants in areas that have difficulty meeting the current match requirement.

State and Tribal Wildlife Grants

State and Tribal Wildlife Grants are funded at \$73.8 million, equivalent to the 2024 CR level, and include \$6.2 million for the Tribal Competitive Grants Program. These grants support and leverage State management of non-game species and improve the resiliency of State and Tribal natural resources in the face of stressors, such as rising temperatures and changing weather patterns. This investment recognizes the important partnership between State and Tribal fish and wildlife managers and FWS.

Fixed Costs

Fixed cost increases of \$33.2 million are fully funded. The request also includes \$53.1 million for baseline capacity, which reflects the incremental amount needed to cover the fixed costs associated with mission operations in 2024. This request in combination with the 2025 fixed costs will allow FWS to meet must-pay requirements without affecting program activities.



Service staff at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge in Texas with students at a nearby elementary school pollinator garden event.

FWS Photo.

SUMMARY OF BUREAU APPROPRIATIONS ^{1/}

(dollar amounts in thousands)

Comparison of 2025 Request with 2024 CR

	2024 CR		2025 Request		Change	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
Current						
Resource Management	6,569	1,646,229	6,987	1,797,117	+418	+150,888
Construction	52	29,904	53	32,165	+1	+2,261
National Wildlife Refuge Fund	0	13,228	0	0	0	-13,228
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund	11	24,564	11	14,442	0	-10,122
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	6	50,000	6	33,000	0	-17,000
Multinational Species Conservation Fund	5	21,000	5	21,000	0	0
Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation	1	5,100	1	5,100	0	0
State Wildlife Grants	19	73,812	19	73,812	0	0
Subtotal, Current	6,663	1,863,837	7,082	1,976,636	+419	+112,799
Permanent						
Resource Management	114	0	114	0	0	0
Land Acquisition	81	118,952	81	121,452	0	+2,500
National Wildlife Refuge Fund	2	7,998	2	8,000	0	+2
Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration	56	1,088,566	56	1,111,030	0	+22,464
Sport Fish Restoration	60	470,069	60	537,608	0	+67,539
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund	0	126,358	0	136,514	0	+10,156
North American Wetlands Conservation Fund	2	142	2	141	0	-1
Migratory Bird Conservation Account	86	92,597	86	92,000	0	-597
Recreation Enhancement Fee Program, FWS	25	7,000	25	7,000	0	0
Miscellaneous Permanent Appropriations	2	4,950	2	4,000	0	-950
Contributed Funds	15	5,000	15	5,000	0	0
Coastal Impact Assistance	1	0	1	0	0	0
Subtotal, Permanent	444	1,921,632	444	2,022,745	0	+101,113
Allocation and Reimbursable						
Allocation	712	0	717	0	+5	0
Reimbursable	940	0	940	0	0	0
Subtotal, Allocation and Reimbursable	1,652	0	1,657	0	+5	0
TOTAL, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE	8,759	3,785,469	9,183	3,999,381	+424	+213,912

^{1/} Current funding amounts include supplemental appropriations and transfers. For further details, see Highlights of Budget Changes tables for each account.

HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET CHANGES

By Appropriation Activity/Subactivity

APPROPRIATION: Resource Management

	2023 Actual	2024 CR	2025 Request	Change
Ecological Services				
Listing	23,398	23,398	23,941	+543
Planning and Consultation	120,858	120,858	146,633	+25,775
Conservation and Restoration	37,653	37,653	41,198	+3,545
Recovery	114,124	114,124	126,381	+12,257
Subtotal, Ecological Services	296,033	296,033	338,153	+42,120
Habitat Conservation				
Partners for Fish and Wildlife	60,267	60,267	68,065	+7,798
Coastal Programs	13,957	13,957	14,647	+690
Subtotal, Habitat Conservation	74,224	74,224	82,712	+8,488
National Wildlife Refuge System				
Wildlife and Habitat Management	260,529	260,529	280,396	+19,867
Visitor Services	80,859	80,859	93,588	+12,729
Refuge Law Enforcement	46,272	46,272	63,401	+17,129
Conservation Planning	3,684	3,684	4,886	+1,202
Refuge Maintenance	150,211	150,211	160,060	+9,849
Subtotal, National Wildlife Refuge System	541,555	541,555	602,331	+60,776
Conservation and Enforcement				
Migratory Bird Management	53,860	53,860	73,066	+19,206
ePermitting	0	0	13,500	+13,500
Law Enforcement	92,099	92,099	110,754	+18,655
International Affairs	29,079	29,079	24,010	-5,069
Subtotal, Conservation and Enforcement	175,038	175,038	221,330	+46,292
Fish and Aquatic Conservation				
National Fish Hatchery Operations	76,356	76,356	80,304	+3,948
Maintenance and Equipment	26,314	26,314	32,107	+5,793
Aquatic Habitat and Species Conservation	138,901	138,901	126,934	-11,967
Subtotal, Fish and Aquatic Conservation	241,571	241,571	239,345	-2,226
Science Applications				
Science Partnerships	26,400	26,400	27,274	+874
Service Science	8,972	8,972	10,628	+1,656
Subtotal, Science Applications	35,372	35,372	37,902	+2,530
General Operations				
Central Office Operations	31,077	31,077	35,372	+4,295
Management and Administration	51,249	51,249	59,458	+8,209
Aviation Management	3,296	3,296	3,400	+104
Servicewide Bill Paying	46,581	46,581	50,319	+3,738
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	7,032	7,032	7,038	+6
National Conservation Training Center	27,015	27,015	28,212	+1,197
Subtotal, General Operations	166,250	166,250	183,799	+17,549

APPROPRIATION: Resource Management *(continued)*

	2023 Actual	2024 CR	2025 Request	Change
Stewardship Priorities	25,641	25,641	0	-25,641
Resource Damage Cost Recovery	0	0	1,000	+1,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/o supplemental and transfers).....	1,555,684	1,555,684	1,706,572	+150,888
Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58).....	+91,000	+91,000	+91,000	0
Transfer from USFS (P.L. 117-58).....	+7,499	0	0	0
Transfer to OIG (P.L. 117-58).....	-455	-455	-455	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/ supplemental and transfers).....	1,653,728	1,646,229	1,797,117	+150,888

APPROPRIATION: Construction

	2023 Actual	2024 CR	2025 Request	Change
Nationwide Engineering Services	5,821	5,821	6,691	+870
Dam, Bridge, and Seismic Safety.....	2,427	2,427	2,427	0
Line-Item Construction Projects.....	21,656	21,656	23,047	+1,391
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/o supplemental).....	29,904	29,904	32,165	+2,261
Disaster Relief Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328)	+247,000	0	0	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION (w/ supplemental).....	276,904	29,904	32,165	+2,261

APPROPRIATION: National Wildlife Refuge Fund

	2023 Actual	2024 CR	2025 Request	Change
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	13,228	13,228	0	-13,228

APPROPRIATION: Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

	2023 Actual	2024 CR	2025 Request	Change
Grants and Administration				
Conservation Grants	13,500	13,500	8,000	-5,500
HCP Assistance Grants.....	8,362	8,362	3,740	-4,622
Administration	2,702	2,702	2,702	0
Subtotal, Grants and Administration.....	24,564	24,564	14,442	-10,122
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	24,564	24,564	14,442	-10,122

APPROPRIATION: North American Wetlands Conservation Fund

	2023 Actual	2024 CR	2025 Request	Change
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	50,000	50,000	33,000	-17,000

APPROPRIATION: Multinational Species Conservation Fund

	2023 Actual	2024 CR	2025 Request	Change
African Elephant Conservation Fund	4,796	4,796	4,796	0
Asian Elephant Conservation Fund	3,017	3,017	3,017	0
Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund	6,388	6,388	6,388	0
Great Ape Conservation Fund	3,802	3,802	3,802	0
Marine Turtle Conservation Fund	2,997	2,997	2,997	0
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	21,000	21,000	21,000	0

APPROPRIATION: Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund

	2023 Actual	2024 CR	2025 Request	Change
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	5,100	5,100	5,100	0

APPROPRIATION: State Wildlife Grants

	2023 Actual	2024 CR	2025 Request	Change
TOTAL APPROPRIATION	73,812	73,812	73,812	0

