

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration

Program Update March 2003





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Assistant Director's Comments

Paul R. Schmidt

Truly exciting times are upon the Federal Assistance Program by any historical measure. The first half of Fiscal Year 2003 began with a move of the Washington Office headquarters to a new home. In addition to moving to new office space, the Program is also moving to new leadership. The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000 provided for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to create the position of the Assistant Director-Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration. This action by the Service sends a clear signal that the Service is further emphasizing the importance of strengthening its relationship with States by providing additional recognition to the Sport Fish Restoration and Wildlife Restoration Programs. As part of the change in leadership, Tom Melius (who has been a strong advocate of the Program as Assistant Director-Migratory Birds and State Programs) will be resuming his former role as Assistant Director-External Affairs. I have left my former position of Deputy Assistant Director for Migratory Birds and State Programs and have been named as the new Assistant Director- Migratory Birds. I will also cover the duties of the new Assistant Director-Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration until the position can be permanently filled.

New collaborative efforts with the States designed to strengthen the Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs have been initiated with the formation of two new joint Federal/State task forces. The Joint Federal/State Task Force on Federal Aid Policy (composed of Service and State fish and wildlife agency personnel) was formed to provide a process for the Service and State fish and wildlife agencies to cooperatively identify program issues of national significance and to jointly develop recommendations concerning those issues. With the most recent round of State audits coming to a close, the Joint Federal/State Task Force on the Next Federal Aid Audit Cycle was formed to solicit input from the States and foster cooperation between the States and the Service in order to improve the effectiveness of the next audit cycle by providing clearer guidelines or "rules of the road" for audits.

Also during the past six months, two important new grant programs administered by Federal Aid have come to fruition. First, a significant amount of the \$77.6 million apportioned to the States through the State Wildlife Grants Program "hit the ground" during this period with numerous grant documents being signed in the Regions. This Program, designed to provide funding to States for the development and

implementation of programs that benefit wildlife and their habitat, including species that are not hunted or fished, requires participants to submit or commit to develop a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan by October 1, 2005. As of December 2, 2002, all States and territories had made this commitment.

The Landowner Incentive Program was created in 2002 to provide grants to establish or supplement landowner incentive programs that provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners for projects that protect and restore habitats of listed species or species determined to be at risk. The \$40 million appropriation "hit the ground" as well. On February 25, 2003, the Director announced \$34.8 million had been awarded to 42 of the 47 States that had submitted project proposals for the competitive Tier-2 LIP grants for Fiscal Year 2002.

With reauthorization of the Sport Fish Restoration Program upon us, we are working closely with the American League of Anglers and Boaters (ALAB) in supporting their consensus position for reauthorization. ALAB, as in the past, provides the unique forum for the Service, States, and non-governmental organizations to work together to foster a stronger base of support for the Sport Fish Restoration Program.



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The "2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation" documents the ongoing importance of outdoor activities to Americans. The Survey reports that 39 percent of all U.S. residents 16 years old and older participated in activities such as hunting, fishing, and birdwatching. The Survey reported that 34 million Americans fished and 13 million hunted.

The Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs collect excise taxes on select fishing and hunting equipment from these outdoor enthusiasts that provides critical revenue to the States for sport fish and wildlife restoration efforts.

We are all very excited about the opportunities being afforded the Federal Assistance Program through new leadership and new programs. We look forward to working with the States and other partners to continue forging stronger working relationships and improved lines of communication that will ultimately benefit those that provide the funding for these Programs, the American sportsmen.

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Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) Agreement

Lanny Moore, On IPA assignment
from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service to the International
Association of Fish and Wildlife
Agencies

This one-year IPA will allow Lanny to pursue full-time the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (BATF), and U.S. Customs Working Group initiatives. The main goal of the group is to ensure that the States receive all funds they are due from these agencies in a timely and accurate manner. Through displays, workshops, and seminars, Lanny will conduct training for all IRS, BATF, and Customs staff who are involved in the paying, collecting, accounting, and transferring of funds.

Federal Aid Program Overview



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The goal of the Federal Aid Program via effective grant administration, is to work with States to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, their habitats and the hunting, sport fishing, and recreational boating opportunities they provide. The Federal Aid Program is responsible for administering the following Programs:

- Wildlife Restoration
- Sport Fish Restoration
- Clean Vessel Pumpouts
- Boating Infrastructure Grants
- National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants
- Multistate Conservation Grants
- State Wildlife Grants
- Landowner Incentive

In addition, Federal Aid provides grant management support for endangered species traditional section 6, Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Land Acquisition, HCP Planning, and Recovery Land Acquisition Grant Programs.

Congress approved the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act on September 2, 1937, and it began functioning on July 1, 1938. The purpose of this Act is to provide

funding for the restoration, rehabilitation, and improvement of wildlife habitat, wildlife management, and research, and the distribution of information produced by the projects. Congress amended the Act on October 23, 1970, to include funding for hunter training programs and the development, operation, and maintenance of public target ranges. The Program is funded by an 11 percent Federal excise tax on sporting arms, ammunition, and archery equipment, and a 10 percent tax on handguns. Additional funds are also collected from a 12.4 percent tax on archery equipment. The Department of the Interior apportions these funds each year to the States and Territories (except Washington, D.C.) based on formulas set forth in the Act.

Congress passed the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act, also referred to as the Dingell-Johnson Act on August 9, 1950. It was modeled after the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act to create a parallel program for fish management, conservation, and restoration. To participate in this Program, States must pass legislation that ensures that the State fish and wildlife agency retains license revenues for use in managing their agency. The Program is funded by a 10 percent Federal excise tax on fishing rods, reels, creels, lures, flies and artificial baits, and a 3 percent tax on electronic fishing motors and sonar fish finders. Additional funding sources are import duties and excise taxes on motorboat and small engine fuels.

Federal Aid Program Overview

The Department of the Interior also apportions these funds each year to the States and Territories under a formula based on each State's land and water area and number of licensed anglers.

Congress passed the Clean Vessel Act (CVA) in 1992 to help reduce pollution from vessel sewage discharges. The Act established a Federal grant program to the States, administered by the Service and funded at \$10 million annually by the Sport Fish Restoration Account of the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund. Federal funds can reimburse up to 75 percent of all approved project costs with the remaining funds provided by the States or marinas. Grants are available to the States on a competitive basis for the construction and/or renovation, operation, and maintenance of pumpout and portable toilet dump stations. After States submit grant proposals to the Service for review, the Division convenes a panel including representatives from the Division's Washington Office, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Coast Guard to evaluate and to rank the proposals. The Service then awards grants shortly afterward. The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA21) reauthorized CVA through Fiscal Year 2003.



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The Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program provides \$32 million over four years (2000–2003) for grants to the States and Territories. The purpose of the grants is to encourage States, in cooperation with local and private interests, to construct, renovate, and maintain tie-up facilities for non-trailerable recreational boats (26 feet or more in length). The Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council and Service panels annually recommend grants for funding to the Service. The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act

authorizes the distribution to Coastal Wetlands Programs 18 percent of the Sport Fish Restoration receipts collected in the previous year or 100 percent of the excise tax on small engine fuel (whichever is greater). The National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program receives 15 percent of these funds (not to exceed \$15 million). Program grants are awarded to States and Territories for coastal wetlands acquisition, restoration, and enhancement. Congress reauthorized the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act in November 2000 through Fiscal Year 2009.

Congress authorized the Multistate Conservation Grant Program under the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000. It can award up to \$6 million annually, with half the funds coming from each of the Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs. These grants must benefit at least half of the States, most of the States in a Service Region, or a regional association of State fish and wildlife agencies. In Fiscal Years 2001, 2002, and 2003 the Service issued the full amount of funds allowed for grants.

Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 established a grant program available to any State agency or agencies, or other government entities, with authority to conserve resident species of fish and wildlife or plants deemed threatened or endangered. Prerequisites for participation in grants under section 6 are that a State establishes and maintains an adequate and active program for the conservation of endangered and threatened species and has entered into a cooperative agreement with the Secretary of the Interior. The State must also meet the requirements for an adequate and active program described in 50 CFR 81 and the Service Manual, chapter 521 FW 4.

For Fiscal Year 2003, the traditional section 6 grant program was funded at \$7.52 million (President's Budget). Funds are distributed among the Service's Regions based on the number of "counted" species found within the States in the Region and then to the States within a Region based on a Regional competition. Additional section 6 programs are funded as follows for Fiscal Year 2003: HCP Land Acquisition, \$54.4 million; HCP Planning, \$6.65 million; Recovery Land Acquisition, \$17.8 million; and \$2.6 million for administration. For traditional section 6 grants, the Federal share is 75 percent, but can go up to 90 percent when two or more States cooperate on an eligible grant.

The State Wildlife Grants Program (SWG) and Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) were initiated through the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002. This Act included \$85 million for SWG and \$40 million for LIP for State agencies and Tribes in FY 2002. The SWG Program is formula-based and is intended to fund a wide range of projects to benefit wildlife species with the greatest conservation need. Grants for the Tribal portion of the SWG Program are competitively awarded. Similarly, LIP awards grants to States and Tribes on a competitive basis. The funds go to provide technical and financial assistance to landowners for the protection and management of habitat

to benefit Federally listed, proposed, or candidate species or other at-risk species on private lands. States have received implementation guidelines for the SWG Program and implementation guidelines for LIP have been published in the Federal Register. The Service's External Affairs Program will implement the Tribal portion of these Programs with Federal Aid providing fiscal administration. For Fiscal Year 2003, the Congress appropriated \$65 million for SWG and no new funds for LIP. The FY 2002 \$40 million in LIP will be used in FY 2003.



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Focus on Specific Programs and Activities



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Joint Federal/State Task Force on Federal Aid Policy and Joint Federal/State Task Force on the Next Federal Aid Audit Cycle

The Service and State fish and wildlife agencies have a strong common interest in the efficient and effective administration of the Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs. To further this relationship, the Joint Federal/State Task Force on Federal Aid Policy (Policy Task Force) has been formed. The Policy Task Force (composed of seven Service and seven State fish and wildlife agency personnel) provides the forum to cooperatively identify Program issues of national significance and to develop jointly recommendations concerning those issues.

Almost one-half billion dollars annually is apportioned to the States for sport fish and wildlife restoration through these two Programs. These Programs represent a cooperative effort not only between the Service and State fish and wildlife agencies, but are also supported and funded by a wide variety of hunters, anglers, and boaters through dedicated taxes paid by these users. Although the Programs serve as a model for cooperative efforts, events of the last few years underscore the need for renewed efforts to provide clear direction and to streamline and improve management of the

Programs. Recommendations from review teams and the recent audits of State fish and wildlife agencies indicate the need for the development of clear policy to reduce confusion, prevent wasted time and resources, eliminate inconsistencies in program implementation, and reduce controversy sometimes associated with administration and execution of the Programs. The Policy Task Force will strive to attain these objectives.

The Service (either on its behalf or on the behalf of other partners) and any State fish and wildlife agency may submit an issue to the Policy Task Force for consideration. The Policy Task Force will review all issues submitted to it. If there are more issues than may be immediately addressed, the Policy Task Force will focus on issues of highest priority, determined by such factors as the number of States affected by an issue, the probability an issue will result in audit finding if left unresolved, the significance of the financial implication, the impact on natural resources if the issue is left unresolved, etc. Policy Task Force recommendations may include changes to existing law, regulation, or policy. Any recommended changes to regulation will require that the proposal be subject to the federal rule-making process. Recommended policy (new or modified) will be subject to an appropriate process



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that may provide opportunity for comment by interested parties before adoption by the Service. It shall be the goal of the Service and of the State fish and wildlife agencies that potential Program issues be brought before the Policy Task Force prior to any Federal or State decision-making process, so that eventual proposals developed in response to these issues reflect the cooperative work of the Service and the States. Policy clarification and problem resolution will be implemented in a rapid manner, and the Policy Task Force may provide recommendations concerning this goal. Within any applicable legal requirements, it shall also be the goal that retroactive application of new or policy clarification entailing adverse consequences for State fish and wildlife agencies will be avoided where prior administrative direction has been ambiguous or non-existent.

In August 2002, the Service and State fish and wildlife agencies formed a Joint Federal/State Task Force on the Next Federal Aid Audit Cycle (Audit Task Force) to review the current procedures for auditing the Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs and to cooperatively develop recommendations for improving the effectiveness of the next audit cycle. The Audit Task Force was composed of eight members from the Service, ten from State fish and wildlife agencies, and three from the Department of the Interior's Office of the Inspector General. The objectives of the Audit Task Group were as follows:

- Define the audit objectives for the next cycle of Federal Aid audits.

- Clarify if the audit objectives should address the distinction between questions concerning whether funds are appropriately used and accounted for, versus natural resource management questions concerning professional biological judgement.

- Define the protocol for the next cycle of Federal Aid audits.

- Review and recommend training and guidance for the auditors, the Service, and the States to include an explanation of the unique nature of these programs, the flexibility available to the States to use apportioned funds to meet State determined priorities for eligible activities, etc.

- Provide final reports, recommendations and briefings by January 1, 2003.

The audit function of the Federal Aid Program is mandated by law and is vital to safeguarding the Program's assets and integrity. After an extensive review of the current audit process and building upon experiences gained from the last audit cycle, the Audit Task Force submitted on December 30, 2003, a 17-page report that provides guidelines or "rules of the road" for improving the audit process. Upon filing this report, the Audit Task Force was disbanded as planned. The Service has endorsed the recommendations contained in the report and prepared a report as of January 17, 2003, describing implementation actions taken regarding the report of the Audit Task Force to that point.

Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration

The total apportionment for Fiscal Year 2003 for the Sport Fish Restoration Program is \$265,241,214. State and Territory apportionments ranged from \$884,137 to \$13,262,060 this fiscal year. The total apportionment is down from last year's all-time high largely because of reduced interest earned on investments. Major Program highlights this past fiscal year include: the awarding of the Sport Fish Restoration Project of the Year by the Fisheries Administrators Section of the American Fisheries Society to the Missouri Department of Conservation's Lost Valley Hatchery for their Visitor Center and Kids Fishing Pond, and to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Florida Marine Research Institute for their Health Monitoring of Florida's Marine Sport Fish project. Other Program highlights included 279,048 students receiving training in aquatic education courses/events, stocking 107,870,000 fish, developing 124 new boating access sites, and managing 1,512 boating access sites.

A major funding component of this Program is scheduled for reauthorization during FY 2003. The reauthorization may affect the distribution of motorboat fuel taxes. Taxes from these sources currently provide almost 40 percent of the total funds available for apportionment from this Program. The American League of Anglers and Boaters (ALAB), the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and other conservation groups are leading efforts to get the Program reauthorized. ALAB reached a consensus position at its January meeting and have begun working with Congressional and government leaders on the Program's reauthorization. The Service acted as a technical advisor to ALAB throughout this group's consensus reaching process.

The consensus position reached by ALAB at its January meeting recommended that the Sport Fish Restoration Program receive 47 percent of the total funds deposited into the Sport Fish Restoration Account for apportionment to States and Territories for their regular sport fish management programs and 8.3 percent of the total funds deposited into the Account for States and Territories boating access activities. The latter percentage maintains boating access at its current overall program funding level (15 percent). These percentages could change as Congress considers the reauthorization of this portion of the Program.

State Audits

The Service published six audit chapters in the Federal Register for comment in December 2001. Modifications were incorporated into the Chapters in November 2002 as recommended by the Director's Federal Aid Audit Policy Task Force. Upon the completion of the surname process, the revised chapters will become part of the Service's Manual. The chapters establish policy and responsibilities for grantee audits, define terms associated with audits, and provide an overview of the audit process. In addition, they establish policies and procedures for audit objectives, planning, conducting, reporting, resolution, and appeals. The establishment of these policies and procedures will enhance the ongoing audit process.

Chapter 1 provides terms associated with the audit and an overview of the audit process. Chapter 2 identifies the programmatic and financial elements of audits. Chapter 3 provides procedures for conducting and reporting on audits of Federal Aid Program grantees. Chapter 4 establishes policy and procedures for resolving findings and implementing recommendations. Included in this chapter are timelines of the audit resolution process. Chapter 5 establishes policy and procedures for appealing Service determinations or corrective actions. Chapter 6 establishes Service policy for resolving findings and implementing recommendations from audits of Federal Aid Program grantees under the Single Audit Act. The audit chapters will enhance the Service's ability to complete audits in a timely manner.

Boating Infrastructure Grant Program

Fiscal Year 2003 is pivotal to the future of the Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program. This fiscal year is the last year of the initial authorization for the Program. The BIG Program was authorized by the Sportfishing and Boat Safety Act of 1998 to encourage States and Territories, in cooperation with local governments and private boating interests, to construct, renovate, and maintain tie-up facilities for non-trailerable recreational boats (26 feet or more in length). Since the inception of the Program, interest and support for the BIG Program has continued to increase.

Funding for this Program in future years is dependent upon its reauthorization by Congress. The ALAB consensus proposal does support reauthorization of this Program.

Thirty four States and five Territories submitted Tier-1 BIG (see Table 1) requests this fiscal year that totaled \$3.6 million. The Service received a record number of proposals (60) for the Tier-2 portion of the BIG Program this fiscal year. The Tier-2 proposals requested \$28.7 million in Federal funding. Nine Tier-2 projects in six States were funded this fiscal year (see Table 2). These projects will receive approximately \$3.9 million in Tier-2 funding and will be supplemented by \$13 million from State and private partners. The States of New York and New Jersey received Tier-2 funding this year for the first time. A brief description of the projects follows.

Louisiana

Bucktown Harbor Marina This project is sponsored by Jefferson Parish and will create a tie-up pier that will be able to accommodate up to 25 large cruising and off-shore boats. Bucktown Harbor Marina, located on the south shore of Lake Pontchartrain, provides transient boaters easy access to New Orleans. BIG funding (Federal share) \$186,886, State/local funding \$194,514.

New Jersey

Belmar Municipal Marina This project is sponsored by the Borough of Belmar and several cooperators. The project will create up to 58 new slips with utility hookups for transient boats. The marina provides convenient access to several local attractions including the Gateway National Recreation Area. BIG funding (Federal share) \$1,500,000, local funding \$3,067,000.

New York

Nyack Marina This project is sponsored by the Village of Nyack and will construct 10 new slips and provide 40 new mooring sites for transient boaters. Nyack Marina is located on the lower Hudson River and provides convenient access to New York City. BIG funding (Federal share) \$247,000, State/local funding \$771,000.

South Carolina

Charleston Maritime Center This project is sponsored by the City of Charleston and will enhance the local marina facilities for transient boaters by installing a 175-foot floating dock, wave attenuators, gangways, and replacing an existing fuel dock. The Maritime Center hosts fishing tournaments, sailing regattas, and other events/festivals throughout the year. BIG funding (Federal share) \$323,750, State/local funding \$323,750.

Harborwalk Marina This project in Georgetown will enhance the existing marina by removing an existing pier and installing new docks and/or fixed piers that can accommodate up to 13 slips. In addition to providing transient boaters with easy access to Georgetown's historic district, it will also serve as a safe harbor for boaters. BIG funding (Federal share \$328,488), State/local funding \$323,070.

Virginia

Bay Creek Marina This project is sponsored by Bay Creek Marina near Cape Charles. This project will construct 49 transient boat slips with utility hookups. The marina provides convenient access to many attractions including the National Maritime Center along Virginia's eastern shore in Virginia Beach and the General Douglas MacArthur Memorial. BIG funding (Federal share) \$250,000, local funding \$1,760,000.

Focus on Specific Programs and Activities

Colonial Beach Yacht Center This project is sponsored by the Colonial Beach Yacht Center and several cooperators in Colonial Beach and will construct a fuel dock and 723 feet of docking space for transient boats. The docking spaces will be equipped with utility hookups. In addition to providing a safe harbor for transient boaters during storms, the area is also a way point destination for boaters traveling along the Potomac River. BIG funding (Federal funding \$138,304, State/local funding \$256,201.

Washington Sailing Marina This project is sponsored by the Washington Sailing Marina in Alexandria. The project will construct a floating wave attenuator that will serve as a docking platform for up to 8 transient boats. The marina provides convenient access to Alexandria and the Washington, DC area attractions. BIG funding (Federal share) \$42,427, local/State funding \$42,427.

Washington

Port of Bremerton Marina This project sponsored by the Port of Bremerton and several cooperators will construct a new 1,200-foot breakwater that includes moorage for transient boaters. The breakwater will be outfitted with utility hook-ups to serve transient boaters. Part of the project plans include re-positioning the decommissioned destroyer, the USS Turner Joy, to better protect the marina from waves. BIG funding (Federal share) \$955,000, local share \$6,339,122.

Table 1. Tier-1 Boating Infrastructure Grants for Fiscal Year 2000 through 2003.

<i>State/Territory</i>	<i>Fiscal Years 2000, 2001</i>	<i>Fiscal Year 2002</i>	<i>Fiscal Year 2003</i>	<i>Total</i>
Alabama	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$400,000
Alaska	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$400,000
American Samoa	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000
Arizona	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Arkansas	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$400,000
California	\$200,000	\$94,260	\$100,000	\$394,260
Colorado	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Connecticut	\$173,295	\$60,446	\$16,450	\$250,191
Delaware	\$200,000	\$0	\$100,000	\$300,000
District Of Columbia	\$178,415	\$0	\$0	\$178,415
Florida	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$39,882	\$339,882
Georgia	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Guam	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000
Hawaii	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$300,000
Idaho	\$200,000	\$75,000	\$100,000	\$375,000
Illinois	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$350,000
Indiana	\$129,375	\$75,000	\$100,000	\$304,375
Iowa	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$300,000
Kansas	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Kentucky	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$400,000
Louisiana	\$72,774	\$99,975	\$99,843	\$272,592
Maine	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$400,000
Maryland	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$400,000

<i>State/Territory</i>	<i>Fiscal Years 2000, 2001</i>	<i>Fiscal Year 2002</i>	<i>Fiscal Year 2003</i>	<i>Total</i>
Massachusetts	\$200,000	\$89,791	\$91,082	\$380,873
Michigan	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$300,000
Minnesota	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$300,000
Mississippi	\$200,000	\$0	\$100,000	\$300,000
Missouri	\$200,000	\$86,700	\$99,000	\$385,700
Montana	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Nebraska	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000
Nevada	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
New Hampshire	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
New Jersey	\$0	\$99,945	\$100,000	\$199,945
New Mexico	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
New York	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$400,000
North Carolina	\$0	\$100,000	\$75,300	\$175,300
North Dakota	\$164,625	\$94,500	\$0	\$259,125
Northern Mariana	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$200,000
Ohio	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$400,000
Oklahoma	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$400,000
Oregon	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$400,000
Pennsylvania	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$400,000
Puerto Rico	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Rhode Island	\$157,219	\$98,750	\$41,250	\$297,219
South Carolina	\$159,000	\$60,500	\$100,000	\$319,500
South Dakota	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Tennessee	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$400,000
Texas	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$400,000
Utah	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Vermont	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$400,000
Virgin Islands	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000
Virginia	\$126,525	\$99,891	\$99,891	\$326,307
Washington	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$300,000
West Virginia	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$200,000
Wisconsin	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$400,000
Wyoming	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$6,661,228</i>	<i>\$3,534,759</i>	<i>\$3,512,698</i>	<i>\$13,708,686</i>

Table 2. Tier-2 Boating Infrastructure Grants for Fiscal Year 2000 through 2003.

<i>State/Territory</i>	<i>Fiscal Years 2000, 2001</i>	<i>Fiscal Year 2002</i>	<i>Fiscal Year 2003</i>	<i>Total</i>
California	\$834,125			\$834,125
Florida	\$845,365	\$250,000		\$1,095,365
Illinois	\$1,397,968			\$1,397,968
Iowa	\$1,156,428			\$1,156,428
Louisiana	\$693,000	\$607,000	\$186,886	\$1,486,886
Maine	\$240,086			\$240,086
Mississippi		\$224,000		\$224,000
New Jersey			\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
New York			\$247,000	\$247,000
Ohio	\$956,293	\$861,383		\$1,817,676
Oregon	\$1,475,625	\$354,750		\$1,830,375
South Carolina	\$928,125	\$1,198,000	\$652,238	\$2,778,363
Virginia	\$606,306	\$600,000	\$430,731	\$1,637,037
Washington		\$299,982	\$955,000	\$1,254,982
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$9,133,321</i>	<i>\$4,395,115</i>	<i>\$3,971,855</i>	<i>\$17,500,291</i>

Federal Aid Information Management System (FAIMS)

FAIMS is critical to the reconciliation of grant related fiscal information that exists in systems operated by the Department of Health and Human Services, the Division of Federal Aid, and the Division of Finance. The checks and balances built into FAIMS ensure the integrity of Federal Aid’s fiscal data as confirmed by the audit firm KPMG.

In Fiscal Year 2003 Federal Aid Program emphasis for FAIMS is being placed on:

- Improving the timeliness and quality of grant objectives and accomplishment information in FAIMS. FAIMS is frequently used to provide not only an accounting of fiscal information, but also objectives and resource benefits accomplished.
- Implementing a web site that will provide Internet access to FAIMS information. The FAIMS team has developed the capability to make various reports and other information available through the Internet. Grantees will be able to use the site to monitor the status of documents, including but not limited to proposals, grant agreements, amendments to grant agreements, fiscal transactions, and accomplishments.

- Implementing electronic submission of annual license holder certifications. This feature of the FAIMS web site will permit recipients of funds under the Sport Fish Restoration and Wildlife Restoration Programs to fill out, sign, and submit license holder certifications electronically.
- Modernizing the architecture of FAIMS through an application upgrade which will convert the application from being client/server based to web-browser based. This will lay the ground work for eventual consolidation of the FAIMS databases into a single centrally located and managed site.

National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation

The recently completed 2001 Survey is the 10th sponsored by the Service since 1955. The Service has conducted the Survey every five years at the request of State fish and wildlife agencies, and it has become one of the Nation's most important sources of information on wildlife-related recreation.

In March 1999, the Survey Grants-in-Aid Subcommittee of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) recommended that the Service conduct a survey in 2001. In June 1999, the Service signed an agreement with the Bureau of Census (Census) to collect the information and produce the reports. Service staff met with State technical committee members and non-governmental organizations to determine survey content. Federal agencies and other major survey users also provided input.

In April and May 2001, Census conducted the screening interviews. Census collected information through computer-assisted interviews conducted primarily by telephone. Census completed screening interviews of over 52,000 households. These interviews identified samples of 30,000 sportsmen (anglers and hunters) and 15,000 wildlife watchers (wildlife feeders, observers, and photographers) for the Survey's detailed interview phase.



State fish and wildlife agencies are developing hunter and angler retention programs in an effort to increase participation. The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks' "Pass It On" program is an example of these efforts. Photo courtesy of Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

Census asked respondents about their 2001 activities and expenditures in three detailed interview waves beginning in April and September 2001 and in January 2002. Interviewers completed data collection on February 28, 2002. The response rate for the detailed data collection phase was about 90 percent.

Some important results include the fact that in 2001, 82 million U.S. residents, 39 percent of the population 16 years and older, participated in some type of wildlife-related recreation. Five million more participated in 2001 than in 1996, the last time the survey was conducted. Anglers, hunters, and wildlife watchers spent \$108 billion pursuing their activities. These expenditures accounted for 1.1 percent of the Nation's total gross domestic product. Of the sportsmen, 34 million fished and 13 million hunted. Sixty-six million wildlife enthusiasts observed, fed or photographed wildlife around their homes or on trips in 2001.

A comparison of 2001 and 1996 estimates shows a mixed picture. While total participation in all wildlife-related recreation increased, participation in fishing declined by 3 percent and hunting by 7 percent. The decrease in hunting was due to a decline in small game hunting and other animal hunting (raccoon, groundhog, etc.). Big game hunting and migratory bird hunting held steady. Wildlife watching increased by 5 percent from 1996 to 2001.

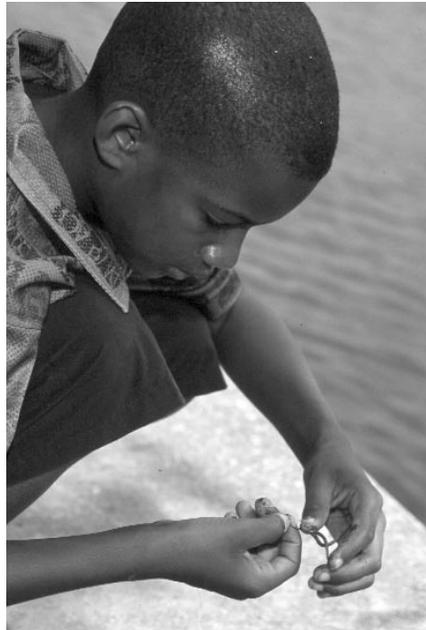
The Service began releasing preliminary information in May 2002. The final National Report and Quick Facts brochure were issued in early October 2002, and the State Reports were issued on a flow basis beginning in January 2003. A CD-ROM with all the survey data is available on request. Copies of the reports are available on request or are accessible through the following web site: <http://federalaid.fws.gov/>.

Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000

As required by Section 133(a) of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000, the Service prepared an implementation report for Congress in August 2001. It may be found on the Federal Aid Home Page at <http://federalaid.fws.gov/>. This report details actions taken by the Division to implement the Act and, as required by Section 133(a), recommends several revisions to the Act the Service believes would assist in administering the Programs.

A key component of the Act is the reduction of funding for administering the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs. The Division of Federal Aid has implemented these reductions and will continue to seek ways to improve the efficiency of its operation. The Division saved money by changing its staffing and expenditures. It also identified unspent administrative funds from prior years that it apportioned to the States. Through these two efforts, Federal Aid has accumulated and apportioned \$10.2 million in administrative savings to the States.

At the same time it was finding ways to save money, the Division implemented new management controls and procedures to ensure continued compliance with the Act and it developed and implemented new grant programs established by the Act. These grant programs include the Multistate Grant Programs in both Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration and the Firearm and Bow Hunter Education and Safety Program in Wildlife Restoration.



FWS photos

Multistate Conservation Grant Program

The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000 established a Multistate Conservation Grant Program within the Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs. The Improvement Act authorizes grants of up to \$3 million annually from funds available under each of the Programs, for a total of up to \$6 million annually. Grants may be made from a priority list of projects submitted by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA), representing the State fish and wildlife agencies.

To be eligible for consideration by the IAFWA, a project must benefit fish and/or wildlife conservation in at least 26 States, a majority of the States in a Fish and Wildlife Service Region, or a regional association of State fish and wildlife agencies. Grants may be made to a State or group of States, to non-governmental organizations, and, for the purpose of carrying out the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.

The priority list of projects submitted by the IAFWA for funding this fiscal year includes these 25 projects (see Table 3) from which the Division expects to make grant awards early in 2003.

Table 3. Multistate Conservation Grants Proposals Submitted for Fiscal Year 2003 Funding

<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Wildlife Funds (in dollars)</i>	<i>Sport Fish Funds (in dollars)</i>
Wildlife Values in the West	Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA)	223,961	223,961
Step Outside	National Shooting Sports Foundation	92,600	92,600
Becoming an Outdoors Woman	University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point	93,050	93,050
Women in the Outdoors	National Wild Turkey Federation	77,500	77,500
The Trailblazer Adventure Program	U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation	80,000	80,000
Automated Wildlife Data Systems Program Coordination	IAFWA Automated Wildlife Data Systems Task Force	81,840	81,840
Provide Adaptive Equipment to State Fish & Game Departments to Assist Physically Challenged Individuals in Traditional Outdoor Activities	Paralyzed Veterans of America	44,000	.....
Measuring Public Opinion of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in 13 Northeast States	Northeast Conservation Information & Education Association	175,000	175,000
Continued Support for State "Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs" Programs	Future Fisherman Foundation	.....	51,500
The Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative: Moving the Plan Forward	Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency	225,000	.....
Chronic Wasting Disease Prevention and Management Planning	IAFWA Wildlife Health Task Force	357,500	.....
Fish & Wildlife Reference Service: Managing and Providing Information to State Wildlife and Natural Resources Agencies	KRA Corporation	249,779	249,779
Evaluation of the Fish and Wildlife Reference Service	Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University	20,356	20,356
Data Management Support for the Chronic Wasting Disease Initiative	Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University	92,154	.....
Unwanted Aquatic Species: A Two-Year Project to Address State, Regional and National Aquatic Invasive Species Issues	IAFWA Fisheries & Water Resources Policy Committee	.....	391,840
Conservation Communication Team	AFWA Education, Outreach & Diversity Committee and Point to Point Communications	114,000	114,000

Continued on page 15

Focus on Specific Programs and Activities

Table 3. Multistate Conservation Grants Proposals Submitted for Fiscal Year 2003 Funding (continued)

<i>Project Title</i>	<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Wildlife Funds (in dollars)</i>	<i>Sport Fish Funds (in dollars)</i>
National 4-H Sportfishing Initiative	National 4-H Sportfishing Committee of the Texas 4-H Youth Development Foundation	.....	150,623
Creating Master Naturalist Programs	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department	97,325	97,325
National Hunting Incident Clearinghouse	International Hunter Education Association	66,800	.....
Wildlife Law News Weekly Alert and Online Services	Center for Wildlife Law at the University of New Mexico Institute of Public Law	40,500	40,500
Management Assistance Team	IAFWA	408,272	408,272
Sage Grouse Data Management: Making States' Data Available to Conservation Planning Teams	WAFWA Sage Grouse and Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Technical Committee	27,800	.....
Bird Conservation for the Nation: Support for State All-Bird Conservation Efforts	IAFWA Bird Conservation Committee	214,520	.....
Assessing Ownership, Use and Modifications of Trapping Systems, and Familiarity of Trapping BMPs by Trappers in the United States	IAFWA Furbearer Resources Task Force; Education, Outreach & Diversity Committee; and Wildlife Resources Policy Committee	118,800	.....
Development of a Detailed National Conservation Need for a National Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation Survey	IAFWA National Grants Committee	125,000	125,000
<i>Totals</i>		<i>3,025,757</i>	<i>2,473,146</i>

FWS photo



National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program

In Fiscal Year 2003, the Service awarded more than \$17 million in grants to 15 States to conserve, restore, and protect coastal wetlands. States awarded grants for Fiscal Year 2003 under the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program are Alabama, Alaska, California, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, Virginia, and Washington State. The grants, which will help fund 23 projects, will be supplemented by \$33 million from State and private partners.

Partners in this year's Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants projects include State fish and wildlife agencies, land trusts, universities, several timber companies, private landowners, and conservation groups, such as Ducks Unlimited and The Nature Conservancy.

To date, the Service has awarded more than \$120 million in grants to 25 States and one U.S. territory under the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program. When the 2003 projects are complete, they will have protected and/or restored more than 17,000 acres; nearly 150,000 acres will have been protected or restored since the program began in 1990.

National Coastal Wetlands Conservation grants are awarded through a competitive process. The Program is one of three conservation efforts funded by the 1990 Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act. Funding for the Program is generated from excise taxes on fishing equipment and motorboat and small engine fuels. These taxes are deposited into the Sport Fish Restoration Account of the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund.

For more information about the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants Program contact the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 840, Arlington, VA 22203 or Division of Federal Aid, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mail Stop MBSP-4020, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203; or check the Program's web site at <http://www.fws.gov/cep/cwgcover.html>.

A descriptions of the 2003 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant projects follows:

Alabama

Mobile-Tensaw Delta Wetlands

Alabama's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, with assistance from several other State agencies, including the State Lands Division and the Department of Environmental Management, will acquire 3,160 acres in Mobile County. This acquisition will preserve a variety of coastal habitats including maritime forest, salt marsh, shrub scrub, bay forests, and wet pine savanna.

Partners: Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, The Coastal Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy of Alabama, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Auburn University and Forever Wild Land Trust.

Coastal grant: \$ 1,000,000, State share: \$ 2,549,000, Partner share: \$ 17,000

Total cost: \$ 3,566,000

Focus on Specific Programs and Activities

Alaska

Afognak Coastal Protection

Alaska's Department of Natural Resources will acquire 5,000 acres on the north coast of Afognak Island in Perenoa Bay, linking protected lands to form a 100-mile stretch of publicly owned coastal habitat.

Partners: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Paul Allen Foundation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, American Land Conservancy, and Kodiak Brown Bear Trust.

Coastal grant: \$ 1,000,000, State share: \$ 10,000, Partner share: \$ 6,200,000

Total cost: \$ 7,210,000

Gustavus Land Legacy: Phase One

Alaska's Department of Fish and Game will acquire 1,072 acres on the Gustavus Flats near the Dude Creek Habitat Area and Glacier Bay National Park, permanently protecting spawning and rearing habitat for coho, chum, and pink salmon and providing for continued hunting, fishing, and recreational use.

Partners: The Nature Conservancy, Gustavus Land Legacy, and Ducks Unlimited.

Coastal grant: \$ 957,600, Partner share: \$ 319,200

Total cost: \$ 1,276,800

Herbert River Wetlands Protection Project

Alaska's Department of Natural Resources will purchase 148 acres of land adjacent to the Herbert River, 30 miles north of Juneau. Protection of this coastal wetland complex will benefit numerous fish species, migratory and coastal birds, and the threatened Steller sea lion.

Partners: City and Borough of Juneau, Southeast Land Trust, Discovery Southeast, and Juneau Audubon.

Coastal grant: \$ 553,000, State share: \$ 20,000, Partner share: \$ 277,000

Total cost: \$ 850,000

Palmer Hay Flats/Cope-Benson Acquisition

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game will acquire 240 acres for the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge. Acquisition of these in-holdings will protect sensitive coastal wetlands and fish streams, as well as facilitating public access to these lands.

Partners: The Great Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy and Ducks Unlimited.

Coastal grant: \$ 75,000, State share: \$ 15,000, Partner share: \$ 60,000

Total cost: \$ 150,000



FWS photo

California

Stornetta Brothers Coastal Ranch

The California State Coastal Conservancy, working with the Wildlife Conservation Board and the California Department of Fish and Game, will protect about 1,800 acres near Point Arena in Mendocino County through a combination of acquisitions and conservation easements. The protected area will include 2.2 miles of Pacific Ocean coastline, a seven-acre offshore island, a two-mile stretch of the Garcia River, a seabird rookery, and several rare coastal habitats.

Partners: The City of Point Arena, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Redwood Coast Land Conservancy, Audubon Society, Cal Trout, Trout Unlimited, and State Parks Foundation.

Coastal grant: \$ 1,000,000, State share: \$ 6,400,000, Partner share: \$ 499,500

Total cost: \$ 7,899,500

Connecticut

Lynde Point Marsh Restoration

The Department of Environmental Protection will restore 10 acres of tidal wetlands on a coastal barrier in the lower Connecticut River, which is designated under the Ramsar Convention as wetlands of international importance. Restoration will include removal of invasive plants.

Partners: Lynde Point Land Trust, Borough of Fenwick, and the Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program.

Coastal grant: \$ 80,000, State share: \$ 60,606, Partner share: \$ 80,394

Total cost: \$ 221,000

Florida

McIlvane Marsh Acquisition

Florida's Department of Environmental Protection, in cooperation with the Florida Division of State Lands, will purchase 1,000 acres around McIlvane Marsh in Collier County to be included in the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Reserve. The project will benefit a variety of wading birds, important recreational fisheries, and several federally listed species, including the largest population of the American crocodile.

Partners: The Forever Florida Program, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Friends of Rookery Bay.

Coastal grant: \$ 1,000,000, State share: \$ 450,000

Total cost: \$ 1,450,000

Hawaii

Waihe'e Coastal Dunes and Wetlands Preserve Acquisition

Hawaii's Department of Natural Resources will acquire 249 acres in Maui County, protecting coastal and spring-fed wetlands, dunes, riparian habitat, and 1 2 miles of marine shoreline. In recent years at least 6 endangered species (the Hawaiian stilt, the Hawaiian coot, two endangered plants, and two endangered insects) have been reported on-site.

Partners: Maui County, the Maui Coastal Land Trust and the Service's Endangered Species Section 6 Recovery Land Acquisition Grant Program.

Coastal grant: \$ 1,000,000, Partner share: \$ 3,630,500

Total cost: \$ 4,630,500

Maryland

Nanticoke River and Marshyhope Creek Wetlands

Maryland's Department of Natural Resources will acquire a perpetual conservation easement on 1,351 acres at the confluence of the Nanticoke River and Marshyhope Creek in Dorchester County. This easement will protect 3 2 miles of river shoreline, several active bald eagle nests, and spawning areas for a number of fish species.

Partner: The Nature Conservancy.

Coastal grant: \$ 660,000, State share: \$ 154,000, Partner share: \$ 155,000

Total cost: \$ 969,000

Massachusetts

Storey Property, Acquisition of Conservation Easements

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management will purchase a conservation easement on a 126-acre parcel in Essex County. These lands provide valuable habitat for 33 species identified by the Fish and Wildlife Service's Gulf of Maine Coastal Program as declining nationally or regionally.

Partner: Essex County Greenbelt.

Coastal grant: \$ 250,000, State share: \$ 400,000, Partner share: \$ 3,000

Total cost: \$ 653,000

New Jersey

Cape May Peninsula

The State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection will purchase 112 acres in the lower Cape May peninsula, one of the most important migratory bird stopover areas in the world. Geese, herons, and egrets are among the dozens of species that use the area during migration.

Partners: The Service's Coastal Habitat Conservation Program and Ducks Unlimited.

Coastal grant: \$ 292,750, State share: \$ 878,250, Partner share: \$ 10,000

Total cost: \$ 1,181,000

Focus on Specific Programs and Activities

New York

Peconic Estuary Critical Wetlands Acquisition, Pipes Cove

New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation will acquire approximately 40 acres in the Pipes Cove Focus Area in Suffolk County. This acquisition will protect maritime forest and habitat for a variety of fish, neotropical migratory songbirds, and endangered or threatened species, including the piping plover. It is part of a larger landscape protection effort for the Peconic Estuary. The Town of Southold will also acquire 100 acres as part of this protection effort.

Partners: The Nature Conservancy, the Town of Southold and the Town of Southampton.

Coastal grant: \$ 1,000,000, Partner share: \$ 5,508,500

Total cost: \$ 6,508,500

Ohio

Pickrel Creek Wildlife Area Wetland Acquisition and Restoration

Ohio's Department of Natural Resources will acquire and restore approximately 280 acres of Lake Erie's coastal wetlands in Sandusky County. This is an important area for migrating songbirds and the most important staging area for black ducks in North America.

Coastal grant: \$ 1,000,000, State share: \$ 660,000

Total cost: \$ 1,660,000

Oregon

Circle Creek Wetlands Acquisition

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board will acquire 350 acres on Circle Creek along the Necanicum River in Clatsop County. This acquisition will expand the existing block of protected habitats to include key portions of the lower river floodplain, creating a linked network of conservation lands. It will also protect one of the largest remaining coastal spruce swamps on the Oregon coast, and provide improved habitat for coho and other at-risk salmon species, as well as red-legged frogs and numerous migratory and at-risk bird species.

Partners: The City of Seaside, the North Coast Land Conservancy and a private landowner.

Coastal grant: \$ 750,000, State share: \$ 175,000, Partner share: \$ 175,000

Total cost: \$ 1,100,000

Yaquina Bay Estuarine Marsh Acquisition

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board will acquire and protect 624 acres of estuarine marsh in Yaquina Bay in Lincoln County. These acquisitions will provide important habitat for endangered and threatened species such as coho salmon, brown pelicans, bald eagles and marbled murrelets, and for candidate species, sea-run cutthroat and steelhead trout. They will also provide habitat for State-designated sensitive species such as chum salmon and pacific lamprey. The marshes in Yaquina Bay support abundant waterfowl populations.

Partners: MidCoast Watershed Council, Central Coast Land Conservancy, the Wetlands Conservancy, Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District, FishAmerica Foundation, the Timber Company and the Simpson Timber Company.

Coastal grant: \$ 952,214, State share: \$ 317,404, Partner share: \$ 134,250

Total cost: \$ 1,403,868

Texas

Guadalupe Delta Wildlife Management Area

Texas Parks and Wildlife will acquire 1,000 acres of coastal marsh and prairie habitat adjacent to the Guadalupe Delta Wildlife Management Area in Refugio County. The acquisition will benefit the existing wildlife area and provide public use opportunities as well.

Partner: The Service's Coastal Habitat Conservation Program.

Coastal grant: \$ 288,000, State share: \$ 192,000, Partner share: \$ 35,000

Total cost: \$ 480,000

Virginia

Protection of Mutton Hunk Fen Conservation Site

Virginia's Department of Conservation and Recreation will purchase 377 acres and obtain conservation easements on 352 acres along Mutton Hunk Branch, Whites Creek and Gargathy Bay on Virginia's eastern shore in Accomack County. A globally rare plant community, a sea level fen, will be protected.

Partners: The Nature Conservancy and several private landowners.

Coastal grant: \$ 953,444, State share: \$ 887,500, Partner share: \$ 700,000

Total cost: \$ 2,540,944



The Nevada Division of Wildlife and the National Park Service installed this floating restroom in Lake Mead to provide recreational boaters restroom facilities in remote locations on this large western reservoir. Photo courtesy of Jerry Novotny, USFWS.

Clean Vessel Act Pumpout Grant Program



The Service is presently in the final review process for Clean Vessel grant proposals submitted

for Fiscal Year 2003 and awards will be announced in the near future. This competitive grant program provides grants to States for the construction and/or renovation, operation, and maintenance of pumpout and portable toilet dump stations, and for education programs that teach recreational boaters the importance of proper disposal of their sewage. Funding proposals are reviewed and ranked by Federal Aid staff and are reviewed by a panel including representatives from the Divisions' Washington Office, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Coast Guard. The panel presents a non-binding recommendation to the Service's Director regarding their ranking of project proposals. Funding for this program was authorized for \$10 million for Fiscal Year 2003. The Service received 38 proposals from 27 States requesting \$15.9 million in program funds this fiscal year.

Since this program's initial awards in Fiscal Year 1993, 49 States, all of the Territories, and the District of Columbia have participated in the program. This program has awarded over \$90 million to States (see Table 4 for awards for last four fiscal years). The program highlights in Fiscal Year 2002 include the development of 74 pumpout facilities in coastal waters and 69 in inland waters.

Funding for this program in future years is dependent upon its reauthorization by Congress for Fiscal Year 2004 and beyond.

Washington

Dungeness-Meadowbrook Coastal Wetlands and Estuary Habitat

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, in cooperation with the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, will protect, through a combination of acquisitions and easements, 140 acres in the Dungeness and Meadowbrook Creek Estuary. A variety of salmon species will benefit from this project.

Partners: Audubon/Rainshadow Natural Science Foundation, the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, the North Olympic Land Trust and the North Olympic Salmon Coalition.

Coastal grant: \$ 977,243, State share: \$ 344,090, Partner share: \$ 83,300

Total cost: \$ 1,424,633

English Boom, League Island Acquisition and Restoration

The Department of Fish and Wildlife, in cooperation with Washington State's Salmon Recovery Fund, will purchase and restore the tidal habitat on about 150 acres of diked tidal slough, salt marsh and freshwater wetlands. The project would be in the Stillaguamish River Estuary and Skagit Bay in Island County, an area

that supports large concentrations of migratory and wintering raptors, waterfowl, shorebirds, and songbirds.

Partners: Stillaguamish Tribe, Island County, Camano Island Salmon Work Group, Friends of Camano Island State Park, Island County Beach Watcher Program, and the Stilli-Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force.

Coastal grant: \$ 977,000, State share: \$ 444,500, Partner share \$ 15,400

Total cost: \$ 1,436,900

Leadbetter Point Conservation Project

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission will acquire and restore 137 acres in Pacific County, linking a network of more than 300 acres of conservation lands in Willapa Bay and providing enhanced habitat for threatened and endangered species.

Partners: Columbia Land Trust, the Trumpeter Swan Society, the Washington Native Plants Society and the Service's North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grant Program.

Coastal grant: \$ 994,000, State share: \$ 775,860, Partner share: \$ 133,500

Total cost: \$ 1,903,360

State Wildlife Grants

President Bush signed the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002, into law on November 5, 2001. This bill included \$80 million for wildlife conservation grants to States and Territories, and \$5 million to Tribes under the State Wildlife Grants Program. The Act directed the apportionment of funds on a formula basis to the States based on land area and population. The Service competitively awards grants for the Tribal portion of the State Wildlife Grants Program. The Fiscal Year 2002 State Wildlife Grants funds will be available for obligation by the States until September 30, 2003, after which we will reapportion any remaining unobligated funds.

The Service designed the State Wildlife Grants Program to assist States by providing Federal funds for the development and implementation of Programs that benefit wildlife and their habitat, including species that are not hunted or fished. It permits both planning and implementation of programs. The Federal share for planning grants may not exceed 75 percent and may not exceed 50 percent for other types of grants. To establish eligibility for these funds, the States and Territories first had to submit or commit to develop by October 1, 2005, a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan. All States and Territories made this commitment by December 2, 2002. Once a State had done this, it could then submit grant proposals, grant agreements, and associated documents to the appropriate Regional Federal Aid Office for review and approval. A majority of the States now have active projects being funded.

Table 4. Clean Vessel Grant Program Awards for Fiscal Year 1999–2002

<i>State</i>	<i>FY2002 Award</i>	<i>FY2001 Award</i>	<i>FY2000 Award</i>	<i>FY1999 Award</i>
Alabama Coastal		\$130,000	\$172,280	\$108,000
Alabama Inland	\$142,073	\$188,160	\$123,037	\$83,000
Alaska	\$97,500			
Arizona			\$30,750	
Arkansas	\$59,651		\$39,600	\$40,000
California Coastal	\$1,010,324	\$1,000,000	\$1,060,000	\$784,000
California Inland	\$737,484	\$598,437	\$155,803	\$325,000
Colorado				\$32,000
Connecticut Coastal	\$207,000	\$692,000	\$627,044	\$463,000
Connecticut Inland				
Delaware Coastal			\$75,000	
Florida Coastal	\$1,010,324	\$1,000,000	\$1,060,000	\$784,000
Florida Inland	\$737,484	\$553,048	\$108,733	\$290,000
Georgia Coastal				
Georgia Inland				
Hawaii				
Idaho		\$42,000	\$50,000	\$42,000
Illinois Coastal				\$14,000
Illinois Inland		\$50,000	\$50,000	\$42,000
Indiana Coastal			\$29,281	\$53,000
Indiana Inland	\$180,934		\$55,097	\$42,000
Iowa				
Kansas		\$31,875		
Kentucky	\$32,550	\$69,000	\$50,000	\$42,000
Louisiana Coastal	\$387,000			
Louisiana Inland	\$87,000			
Maine Coastal	\$233,451	\$217,000	\$217,882	\$183,000
Maine Inland			\$19,301	
Maryland Coastal		\$618,000	\$579,600	\$504,000
Massachusetts Coastal	\$526,000	\$875,000	\$1,006,236	\$784,000
Massachusetts Inland				
Michigan Coastal	\$60,000	\$67,500		\$90,000
Minnesota Coastal				
Minnesota Inland				
Mississippi Coastal				\$79,000
Mississippi Inland				\$127,000
Missouri	\$30,000	\$33,000	\$45,720	\$42,000
Montana				
Nebraska				\$42,000
Nevada			\$50,000	\$42,000
New Hampshire Coastal	\$50,300	\$42,000	\$26,950	\$40,000

<i>State</i>	<i>FY2002 Award</i>	<i>FY2001 Award</i>	<i>FY2000 Award</i>	<i>FY1999 Award</i>
New Hampshire Inland	\$20,300	\$58,000	\$50,000	\$42,000
New Jersey Coastal	\$780,750		\$494,100	\$506,000
New Jersey Inland				
New Mexico				
New York Coastal	\$245,000	\$446,000	\$316,950	\$318,000
New York Inland	\$114,138	\$170,195	\$106,607	\$98,000
North Carolina Coastal		\$111,000	\$50,000	
North Carolina Inland		\$76,500		\$42,000
North Dakota				
Ohio Coastal	\$264,975	\$263,100	\$417,204	\$175,000
Ohio Inland	\$92,250	\$85,125	\$50,000	\$37,000
Oklahoma		\$73,500	\$137,228	\$29,000
Oregon Coastal	\$385,237	\$254,564	\$419,625	\$344,000
Oregon Inland	\$659,362	\$425,905	\$406,410	\$278,000
Pennsylvania Coastal			\$49,875	\$50,000
Pennsylvania Inland			\$49,875	
Rhode Island Coastal	\$168,000	\$146,000		\$87,000
Rhode Island Inland				
South Carolina Coastal	\$75,000		\$674,960	\$301,000
South Carolina Inland	\$50,000	\$313,492	\$139,085	\$186,000
South Dakota		\$12,000	\$22,687	
Tennessee	\$440,156	\$388,198	\$249,090	\$184,000
Texas Coastal	\$30,000		\$148,481	
Texas Inland	\$289,000		\$69,629	
Utah			\$50,000	\$84,000
Vermont				
Virginia Coastal			\$644,175	\$519,000
Virginia Inland			\$104,685	\$38,000
Washington Coastal	\$725,000	\$725,000	\$80,500	\$646,000
Washington Inland	\$175,000	\$118,335		\$67,000
West Virginia				
Wisconsin Coastal			\$49,020	\$115,000
Wisconsin Inland			\$25,000	\$14,000
Wyoming				
Washington, DC				
Guam				
American Samoa				
Virgin Islands			\$50,000	\$83,000
Northern Mariana		\$60,000		
Puerto Rico			\$112,500	\$80,000
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$10,103,243</i>	<i>\$9,933,934</i>	<i>\$10,600,000</i>	<i>\$9,400,000</i>

The Service and IAFWA will be co-sponsoring six Regional workshops this spring with the objective of sharing information and approaches to wildlife conservation planning and fostering collaboration and partnership in the development and implementation of the plans.

Landowner Incentive Program

Congress funded the Landowner Incentive Program, authorized in the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002, with \$40 million derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. It provides competitive matching grants to States, Territories, the District of Columbia, and Tribes. The Service will allocate \$4 million to Tribes, \$34.8 million to the States and Territories, and \$1.2 million will be for administrative costs. The grants will establish or supplement landowner incentive programs that provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners for projects that protect and restore habitats of listed species or species determined to be at-risk. Landowner Incentive Program projects will likely involve activities such as the restoration of marginal farmlands to wetlands, the removal of exotic plants to restore natural prairies, a change in grazing practices and fencing to enhance important riparian habitats, instream structural improvements to benefit aquatic species, road closures to protect habitats and reduce harassment of wildlife, and conservation easements. The Service requires a minimum 25 percent non-Federal share of project costs.

On October 1, 2002, the Service published the final notice in the Federal Register with implementation guidelines and a Request for Proposals. States and Territories were given 60 days to submit grant proposals to the Service for funding consideration. Proposals could be submitted for either Tier-1 or Tier-2 competition (or both), with a maximum amount awarded to any individual State not to exceed \$1.74 million (5 percent of the funds available). Tier-1 grants (capped at \$180,000 per State and \$75,000 for D.C. and the Territories) are intended to provide a base for States to fund staff and associated costs necessary to develop a new or enhance an existing landowner incentive program. Tier-2 grants are intended to 'implement' State landowner incentive programs by providing technical or financial assistance to private landowners through a variety of means to support on-the-ground projects.

The Service received a total of 84 Tier-1 and Tier-2 project proposals totaling \$60.6 million from 47 States by the December 2 deadline. On February 25, 2003, the Director announced \$34.8 million had been awarded to 42 of the 47 States that had submitted project proposals for the competitive Tier-2 LIP grants for Fiscal Year 2002. The FY 2003 Omnibus Bill rescinded \$40,000,000 from the FY 2002 Landowner Incentive Program, and provided the same amount in FY 2003. The FY 2003 fund awards will be made based on existing program applications.

The 84 grant proposals included a wide variety of implementation approaches. Some State fish and wildlife agencies intend to solicit project proposals from private landowners and select the best for funding, while others have targeted habitat types in certain areas of the State and plan to contact the landowners in these areas to pursue cooperative projects. Some States envision considerable use of conservation easements to effect long term habitat improvement on private lands, while others are focused on cost-shared habitat management actions in relation to the Safe Harbor Agreement Program of the Service. It is clear that nearly all States intend to pursue funding and agency involvement under the Landowner Incentive Program. The Service is committed to help States meet Federal grant requirements for this Program as well as to provide feedback to the States to improve future grant proposal rankings and program effectiveness in Fiscal Year 2004 and beyond.

Federal Aid National Training Program

The National Federal Aid Training Program functions as part of the Washington Office of Federal Aid. The training program develops and delivers grants management training for Federal Aid staff and State fish and wildlife agency grantees. These training courses increase the knowledge, skills and abilities of State and Federal personnel who manage Federal Aid grants. This training helps to ensure that Federal Aid grant managers consistently apply the laws, rules, and policies that govern Federal Aid Program administration.

Over 700 State and Federal Aid staff have received grants training specific to Federal Aid's Programs through courses developed by or offered in cooperation with the Federal Aid Training Program. That number includes 315 Basic Grants Management Course graduates, 227 Project Leaders Course graduates, 29 Federal Aid Audit Training for Auditors Course graduates, and 54 participants in a boating grant writing workshop. An April 2002 needs assessment showed a continuing need for basic training in grants management, fiscal grants management, project leaders courses, and other specialized grant program training. Currently, Basic Grants Management courses are scheduled once each year. Since the Project Leaders Course pilot in March 2000, interest and demand for the State specific Federal Aid Project Leaders Course has grown. Six Project

Leaders Courses were completed in Fiscal Year 2002 and nine Project Leaders Courses are planned for Fiscal Year 2003. Federal Aid Audit Training Workshops for State grantees will be conducted during the Regional Federal Aid Coordinators' meetings during this fiscal year. Two additional courses are currently under development (Fiscal Management of Federal Aid Grants and Compliance Issues Course.)

The Federal Aid Training Program also provides training tools, resources, instructors, and assistance in developing other grant management training. To date, this assistance has focused on grant writing skills for the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program, Clean Vessel grants, and boating access grants.

Course descriptions, an on-line application, training materials, and grant manager's resources are available on Federal Aid's Training Program web site at: <http://training.fws.gov/fedaid/>.

Appendix

Timber Policy Resolution Memos (These are included in this year's Program Update because they were not included in last year's version.)

All information and tables previously found in the appendices in earlier Program Updates are now on the Federal Aid homepage at: <http://federalaid.fws.gov/>.

See following pages.



FWS photo

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/AMBS/FA/00691

Memorandum

To: Regional Directors, Regions 1-7

From: Director **Steve Williams** JUN 6 - 2002

Subject: Policy - Federal Aid Timber Sales

The purpose of this memorandum is to issue policy guidance to be implemented uniformly throughout the Regions regarding the appropriate treatment of revenues generated by States from the sale of timber harvested on Federal Aid lands in accordance with a State's accepted wildlife management practices. This policy reflects the legal conclusions reached in a December 5, 2000 opinion issued jointly by the Associate Solicitor, General Law and the Acting Associate Solicitor, Parks and Wildlife, which concluded that in the context of the Federal Aid statutes and Departmental regulations, timber revenues generated as a result of accepted wildlife management practices on lands purchased in part with Federal Aid funding constitutes "program income," rather than transfer of real property. Such income, therefore should be handled in a manner consistent with the Federal grant regulations at 43 C.F.R. 12.65, dealing with program income.

Background Information

In the Federal Aid State audit process, a recurring issue has been the means by which States account for revenues generated from the sale of timber on Federal Aid lands, harvested in a manner consistent with accepted wildlife management practices. Controversy ensued when auditors interpreted the Federal Aid statutes and implementing regulations to require such timber sales to be treated as the sale of real property, in accordance with 43 C.F.R. 12.71. Such an interpretation would require that a State either reimburse the FWS with a pro rata share of the revenue from the sale of such property or, with the permission of the FWS, purchase real property of equal value to the property sold. Furthermore, treating the sale of timber as the transfer of real property would require that a State get permission from the FWS, with such approval constituting a Federal action.

In September 2000, the Assistant Secretary, Policy, Management and Budget, issued an audit decision memorandum, which, among other conclusions, based his findings relative to the sale of timber on an interpretation that the sale of timber was the transfer of real property. This

conclusion prompted the December 5, 2000 Solicitors' opinion, cited above, which clearly sets forth the legal rationale, in the context of the Federal Aid statutes and regulations, why the sale of timber harvested on Federal Aid lands incidental to accepted management practices is not the transfer of real property and that revenues from such sales should be treated as program income. A copy of the Associate Solicitors' Memorandum is attached for your reference.

In treating timber revenues as program income, an issue of particular concern to both State wildlife agencies and the FWS is the ability of the FWS to ensure that income generated from the sale of timber on Federal Aid lands perpetually continues to support the administration of State wildlife agencies. As pointed out in the Associate Solicitors' memorandum, the FWS has authority under the grant regulations to stipulate within grant agreements the future disposition of all such timber revenues. Additionally, the FWS can incorporate such a restrictive provision into its Federal Aid regulations, which would govern all appropriate grants, without necessitating restrictive language being written into each individual grant.

Timber Policy

Grantees shall recognize the revenue from the sale of timber harvested on Federal Aid lands incidental to accepted wildlife management practices as "program income," subject to the Federal assistance regulations at 43 C.F.R. 12.65. Until such time as 50 CFR Part 80 is amended to ensure that all revenues generated from the sale of such timber continues to be utilized in perpetuity for the administration of State wildlife agencies, each appropriate grant agreement shall contain language requiring such a permanent restriction.

cc: Assistant Secretary Policy - Management and Budget
Assistant Inspector General for Audits
3012MIB - Directorate Reading File
3012MIB - CCU
3250MIB - AMBS
140 ArlSq
FWS:\PMcH:cmm:358-2156:S\McHugh\Timber Sales Revised Decision
minor correction:jal 3/19/02 Revisions:05/28/02



**United States Department of the
Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**

Washington, D.C. 20240

FWS/AMBS/FA/008426

JUL – 5 2002

Memorandum

To: Regional Directors
From: Acting Assistant Director Migratory Birds and State Programs
Subject: Implementation of the Director's Timber Policy

Based upon the Director's Timber Policy memorandum dated June 6, 2002, grants that have potential timber sale income will include the following conditional statement in the grant agreement.

Timber Policy Conditional Statement:

Revenue generated by the State from the sale of timber on federal aid lands during the grant period shall be treated as program income. Program income is subject to the Federal assistance regulations at 43 C.F.R. 12.65. Timber revenues realized after the grant period are required to be fully used in perpetuity for the administration of the applicable State fish and wildlife agency and may not be diverted to other purposes.

To insure regional consistency, please assure that grants that have the potential for timber sale income have the conditional statement included. If you have any questions please contact Kris LaMontagne at 703 358 2156

/s/ Paul R. Schmidt

**U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Division of Federal Aid**

<http://www.fws.gov>

