

Habitat Conservation

Habitat Conservation	2003 Actual	2004 Estimate	Uncontrollables & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	2005 Budget Request	Changes from 2004 (+/-)
Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program \$(000) FTE	37,825 207	42,401 245	+122 0	7,477 +8	50,000 253	+7,599 +8
Project Planning \$(000) FTE	31,522 301	30,070 305	+185 0	-1,125 0	29,130 305	-940 0
Coastal Program \$(000) FTE	11,021 72	10,186 75	+46 0	2,828 0	13,060 81	+2,874 +6
National Wetlands Inventory \$(000) FTE	4,702 38	4,665 38	+25 0	-37 0	4,653 38	-12 0
CAM*	[4,053]	[TBD]*			[TBD]*	
Total, Habitat Conservation \$(000) FTE	85,070 618	87,322 663	+378 0	9,143 14	96,843 677	9,521 +14

*The Service is reviewing the Cost Allocation Method and will provide a FY 2005 budget proposal by April 15, 2004.

The Service provides technical assistance regarding fish and wildlife management and habitat restoration to other federal agencies, states, industry, and the public through the Habitat Conservation Program. Through this cooperative program, the Service promotes the conservation of fish and wildlife habitats as Americans develop and utilize the Nation's land and water resources. By working with and providing technical assistance to its partners, the Service safeguards public and environmental health by protecting, and restoring the Nation's natural resources.

The Service's primary habitat conservation tools consist of:

- Forming partnerships for habitat restoration, protection, and conservation.
- Providing habitat planning and technical assistance for natural resource use and extraction.
- Coordinating Service responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act.
- Protecting, restoring and inventorying coastal habitats.
- Inventorying, mapping, and monitoring the nation's wetlands.

Service regional and field office personnel provide project sponsors with on-the-ground assessments of the potential impacts to fish and wildlife habitats resulting from proposed development, including highway construction, gas pipelines, flood control, water delivery systems, and hydropower. They also provide technical assistance to project sponsors in an effort to avoid or minimize these impacts, and work hand-in-hand with communities and private landowners to assist them with natural resource planning, to protect pristine habitat, and to restore degraded habitats such as wetlands, streams, native grasslands and woodlands. Finally, the Service provides the public with high quality and easily accessible information regarding wetlands through its National Wetlands Inventory Program.