

Land Acquisition

Appropriations Language

For expenses necessary to carry out the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended (16 U.S.C. 4601-4 through 11), including administrative expenses, and for acquisition of land or waters, or interest therein, in accordance with statutory authority applicable to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, [\$43,628,000] \$45,041,000, to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and to remain available until expended: *Provided, That notwithstanding 16 U.S.C. 4601-9, of the amounts provided under this heading, \$10,000,000 is for payment to the Quinault Indian Nation pursuant to the terms of the North Boundary Settlement Agreement dated July 14, 2000, providing for the acquisition of perpetual conservation easements from the Nation: Provided further, That none of the funds appropriated for specific land acquisition projects can be used to pay for any administrative overhead, planning or other management costs. (Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriation, 2004.)*

Justification of Language Change

Addition: Provided, That notwithstanding 16 U.S.C. 4601-9, of the amounts provided under this heading, \$10,000,000 is for payment to the Quinault Indian Nation pursuant to the terms of the North Boundary Settlement Agreement dated July 14, 2000, providing for the acquisition of perpetual conservation easements from the Nation: Provided further,

The FY 2005 budget proposal requests a \$10,000,000 payment to the Quinault Indian Nation pursuant to the terms of the North Boundary Settlement Agreement, as well as language authorizing the purchase of conservation easements.

Authorizing Statutes

Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended (16 U.S.C. 4601-4-11). Authorizes appropriations to the Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire land for National Wildlife refuges as otherwise authorized by law. Authorization of Appropriations: Expires September 30, 2015.

Refuge Recreation Act of 1962, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460k-1). Authorizes acquisition of areas which are adjacent to or within, existing fish and wildlife Conservation Areas administered by the Department of the Interior, and suitable for (1) incidental fish and wildlife-oriented recreation development, (2) the protection of natural resources, (3) the conservation of listed, threatened or endangered species, or (4) carrying out two or more of the above.

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1534). Authorizes the acquisition of land, waters or interest therein for the conservation of fish, wildlife and plants, including those that are listed as endangered or threatened species, with Land and Water Conservation Fund Act appropriations.

The Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, as amended (16 U.S.C. 742f(a)(4)). Authorizes acquisition of additions to the National Wildlife Refuge System for the development, management, advancement, conservation, and protection of fish and wildlife resources by purchase or exchange of land and water or interests therein.

Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 3901). Authorizes the purchases of wetlands, or interests in wetlands, consistent with the wetlands priority conservation plan established under the Act.

Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C 410hhh) Authorizes the establishment of the Baca National Wildlife Refuge.

Justification of Uncontrollable and Related Changes (Dollars in Thousands)	2004 Budget	2004 Revised	2005 Changes
Additional Operational Costs from 2004 and 2005 January Pay Raises			
2004 Pay Raise	75	199	+36
Amount of pay raise absorbed	[99]	[379]	[102]
2005 Pay Raise	N/A	N/A	+40
Amount of pay raise absorbed			[40]
<p>These adjustments are for an additional amount needed in 2004 to fund the remaining 3-month portion of the estimated cost of the, on average, 4.1 percent pay increases effective in January 2004 and the additional costs of funding for an estimated 4.1 percent January 2005 pay increase for GS-series employees and the associated pay rate changes made in other pay series.</p>			
Other Uncontrollable Cost Changes:			
Rental Payments to GSA	N/A	N/A	+20
<p>The adjustment is for changes in the costs payable to General Services Administration and others resulting from changes in rates for office and non-office space as estimated by GSA, as well as the costs of mandatory office relocation. Costs of mandatory office relocations, i.e. relocations in cases where due to external events there is no alternative but to vacate the current occupied space, are also included.</p> <p>* This represents a proportionate share of rental payment for this appropriation. The full cost of the Service's rental payment is shown in the Resource Management table.</p>	[223]*	[240]*	
Department Working Capital Fund Changes	+16	+16	+61
<p>The change reflects expected changes in the charges for Department services and other services through the working capital fund. These charges are displayed and explained in the Budget Justification for Department Management.</p> <p>See also the Resource Management and Construction tables for FY 05 changes</p>			
Employer Share of Federal Health Benefit Plans			
Amount Absorbed	+2	+2	+24
<p>The adjustment is for changes in the Federal government's share of the cost of health insurance coverage for Federal employees.</p> <p>See also the Resource Management and Construction tables for FY 05 changes</p>		[40]	[23]
One Less Payday	N/A	N/A	-30
<p>This adjustment reflects the decreased costs resulting from the fact that there is one less payday in 2005 than in 2004.</p>			

Land Acquisition	2003 Actual	2004 Estimate	Uncontrollable & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	2005 Budget Request	Change From 2004 (+/-)
Land Acquisition Management \$(000)	9,935	8,394	70	-99	8,365	-29
<i>FTE</i>	98	111	0	0	93	-18
Cost Allocation Methodology * \$(000)	2,484	2,032	81	-113	2,000	-32
Exchanges \$(000)	993	494	0	+506	1,000	+506
Inholdings \$(000)	1,987	1,482	0	+1,018	2,500	+1,018
Emergencies and Hardships \$(000)	1,987	988	0	+1,012	2,000	+1,012
Federal Refuges/Projects \$(000)	55,507	29,700	0	-524	29,176	-524
Transfer to BIA	0	-4,968		+4,968	0	+4,968
Total, \$(000) Land Acquisition (without Fire)	72,893	38,122	+151	+6,768	45,041	+6,919
<i>FTE</i>	98	111	0	-18	93	-18
Fire Transfer Out	-13,900	NA			NA	
Fire Repayment	14,963	11,358			NA	
Total \$(000) Land Acquisition (With Fire)	73,956	49,480			NA	

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

Program Overview

The Fish and Wildlife Service acquires, through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), lands, waters and interests therein as authorized by Acts of Congress. The lands are acquired:

- For conservation, management, and, where appropriate, restoration of ecosystems, fish, wildlife, plants and related habitat; and
- To provide compatible, wildlife-oriented public use for recreational and educational opportunities.

Emphasis is placed on acquiring important fish and wildlife habitat specifically authorized by Congress and for the conservation of listed, endangered and threatened species; nationally important wetlands; and additions to existing national wildlife refuges. The program focuses on projects that use alternative and

innovative conservation tools such as easements, and projects that include the input and participation of the affected local communities and stakeholders.

The land acquisition program is exclusively dedicated to the DOI Resource Protection mission area. In prior years, the program also supported the DOI Recreation and Serving Communities mission areas.

Land Acquisition Management - Supports the following key functions:

- All realty staff salaries and benefits as well as other staff who are directly associated with the Land Acquisition Management program;
- Incidental costs required to manage an acquisition program, such as contract management for appraisals, surveys, and title work; and the closing costs for unfunded projects such as donations and transfers from other federal agencies when carried out by in-house staff;
- Program administrative costs including travel, supplies, training, equipment and similar costs.

The land acquisition process, from initial planning to the actual acquisition, may take anywhere from two to five years to complete. These steps are:

- Pre-acquisition compatibility determinations;
- Project nomination process;
- Ensuring compliance with federal and state laws;
- Processing projects in the Land Acquisition Priority System (LAPS);
- Budgeting and financial responsibilities;
- Title work, appraisals, appraisal review, mapping surveys, contract administration, contaminant surveys, negotiations, closing/recording deeds, relocation of people/business;
- Post-acquisition management of the program (including: tracking, developing policy and responding to external inquiries, etc.); and,
- Clerical support and other indirect support (e.g., general training).

Exchanges - Supports planned land exchanges by providing a portion of the related acquisition costs, including appraisals, and coordination of activities with other federal agencies, state and local governments and private landowners. Land exchanges promote conservation through local cooperation and consultation, provide alternatives to direct purchase with appropriated land acquisition funding, and support cost-effective acquisitions. It should be noted however, that they are not the least administratively cost-effective manner of bringing lands into the refuge system because the Service has to accomplish roughly double the work of a purchased acquisition. We typically have to complete two appraisals (one for the lands leaving the Federal Estate and one for the lands entering), two contaminant surveys, two sets of closing documents, two surveys, etc. In order to effectively execute an exchange program, funding must exist to cover these increased administrative costs.

Listings of land exchanges planned for FY 2004-2005 are provided in separate tables.

Inholdings - Supports acquisition opportunities of parcels of land within a refuge boundary. The funding is targeted to support acquisition opportunities on projects that do not have an active land acquisition program and for which funds would likely not be requested as a budget item. Inholdings are generally small parcels of land, however, there is no size limitation for parcels purchased with these funds.

Emergencies and Hardships - Supports unscheduled acquisition opportunities on projects when there are valid reasons for immediate acquisition of the property. These acquisitions are justified on a case-by-case basis for reasons that may include, but are not limited to, financial hardship of the landowner or imminent destruction of the resource.

Federal Refuges/Projects - Supports acquisition of land and water and interests through fee title, easements, leases and other interests, as well as contract costs and reimbursable agreements related to projects. Acquisitions serve to:

- Protect nationally important wetlands, fish, wildlife and plant habitat;
- Provide for preservation and recovery of listed, endangered and threatened species and other important wildlife and plant species;
- Provide for public use and enjoyment; and,
- Protect trust resources.

Use of Cost and Performance Information

Shifting of program responsibilities:

The appraisal function previously performed by various agencies within the Department of the Interior was transferred to the new Office of Appraisal Services (OAS) in Department of Interior's National Business Center in FY 2004. The result of this reorganization provides better control of costs and performance by allowing the Service to monitor more objectively the output of the product provided by OAS and enhancing the ability of the Department to provide unbiased appraisals consistent with the public interest. The Department's new appraisal organization will ensure greater appraiser independence, thereby enabling Interior to provide valuation services that meet recognized professional standards. It will also provide for better coordination and consistency of appraisal guidance, enhanced professional development of appraisers, and greater efficiencies in contract monitoring and management. Consolidation will also allow for sharing of scarce skills and resources within the entire Department.

Working across agencies to achieve common goals in a globally cost effective manner, striving to build stronger partner relationships with communities and local and state governments:

The Fish and Wildlife Service participated on the Marine Boundary Working Group of the Federal Geographic Data Committee. The Marine Boundary Working Group was established to foster integrated approaches to the legal and geospatial descriptions of marine boundaries and mapping of marine boundary features within the territorial waters of the United States. The goals of the working group are to make maximum use of public resources to avoid duplicating efforts to provide a venue for communicating on and coordinating marine boundary activities; and to use standardized methodologies to produce more complete and usable marine boundary data, metadata, and maps. The Service has used this forum to resolve boundary disagreements at a number of Pacific island refuges including the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge.

2003 Program Performance Accomplishments

In FY 2003, the Service developed a draft Director's Order that provides interim guidance on strategic growth of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS). It establishes the priorities for the Service's land acquisition program: first is the completion of acquisitions within approved refuge boundaries; second is to expand existing refuges where necessary to fulfill the purposes of the refuge and meet the mission and goals of the System; and third is the establishment of new refuges when we or other parties cannot adequately conserve outstanding fish and wildlife resources of national significance using other tools. Expansions that are reasonable to accomplish within a 15-year period are generally identified during the comprehensive conservation planning process.

The draft Director's Order also establishes the process for identifying and prioritizing lands for expansion of the NWRS to ensure the highest priority lands for conservation will be brought into the System. It will focus on meeting national, regional, eco-regional and local conservation goals for species and habitats; filter proposals through a series of threshold standards to ensure approval of only the most important projects; and consider funding availability for operations and maintenance.

Land Acquisition programmatic reforms begun in 2002 were continued and strengthened, including:

- Financial controls in the Federal Financial System in conjunction with the refinements in the Budget Allocation System provided accountability in fund tracking and allocation. Accurate project tracking proved invaluable as emergency transfers to and from the Bureau of Land Management's fire account required timely, informed decision-making.
- Land Acquisition Reform Contracts between the Director and each of the Regional Directors continued to deliver mandated reforms. Goal specific performance agreements included meeting the planning and realty full-time equivalent staff (FTE) targets; converting a direct target of FTEs to contracts in each region; ensuring that no project funds are used to pay for in-house costs; limiting realty and planning vacancies to Service-wide recruitment (in order to achieve the outsourcing goals); and "Ensure adherence to the Service's land acquisition prioritization process and not operate as 'free agents' in support of specific land acquisition proposals." Even though actual FTE are below the target, critical vacancies exist that will need to be filled, thereby increasing the actual FTE usage without going over the target.
- Written direct-charge agreements with those programs that provide easily identifiable, needed services to the Land Acquisition program were continued, eliminating programmatic cross charging.

FY 2004 Program Performance Goal Estimates

In cooperation with the Department of the Interior's National Business Center, the Service is taking the necessary steps to implement consolidation of the appraisal function within the Office of Appraisal Services of the National Business Center. The reorganization furthers programmatic streamlining and management reforms implemented in FY 2003 while continuing to increase financial accountability and improve project management. Other key planned FY 2004 programmatic activities include:

- Continue to allocate and track, to the project level, the obligation of land, overhead and incidental costs in the Federal Financial System,
- Incorporate all applicable Land Acquisition Reform Contract points, including the "free agency prohibition" language from the FY02 House Committee report, in out year contracts,
- Maintain adequate staffing in the Land Acquisition program to support program goals, and
- Continue to capitalize on economies that can be obtained by contracting commercial activities such as appraisals, cartography and surveys.

Justification of 2005 Program Changes

Subactivity		2005 Budget Request	Program Changes (+/-)
Land Acquisition Management	\$(000)	8,365	-99
	FTE	93	-18
Cost Allocation Methodology	\$(000)	2,000	-113
Exchanges	\$(000)	1,000	+506
Inholdings	\$(000)	2,500	+1,018
Emergencies and Hardships	\$(000)	2,000	+1,012
Federal Refuges/Projects	\$(000)	29,176	-524
Transfer to BIA	\$(000)	0	+4,968
Total, Land Acquisition	\$(000)	45,041	+6,768
	FTE	93	-18

The FY 2005 request for Land Acquisition is \$45,041,000 and 93 FTE, a net program increase of \$6,919,000 and a decrease of 18 FTE from the 2004 enacted level. Other resources available for accomplishing the major performance goals supported by these appropriated funds include offsetting collections (estimated \$5,800,000 in FY 2004, \$0 in FY 2005, -0- FTE) and carryover from previous appropriations (\$58.7 million in 2004, estimated \$35.5 million in FY 2005). Permanent funds in the Migratory Bird Conservation Account also supplement Service land acquisitions for national wildlife refuges and wetland management districts.

Transfer to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (+\$4,968,000)

Funds appropriated in FY 2003 to purchase conservation easements at the North Boundary of the Quinault Indian Nation project were directed to be transferred to the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Public Law 108-108 (117 STAT. 1258). The one-time transfer reduced the FY 2004 land acquisition appropriation for scorekeeping purposes. Within the land acquisition appropriation, the FY 2005 budget proposal requests \$10,000,000 in support of this project as well as language authorizing the purchase of conservation easements. No transfer is requested for FY 2005.

Land Acquisition Management (-\$99,000)

In response to congressional direction, Land Acquisition Management streamlining has produced programmatic reforms, furthered Departmental competitive sourcing goals and refined overall project management. These efficiencies are reflected in the \$99,000 program reduction.

Consolidated Appraisal Function

Land Acquisition	2003 Actual	2004 Estimate	Uncontrollable & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	2005 Budget Request	Change From 2004 (+/-)
Land Acquisition Management \$(000)	NA	1,502			1,502	0
FTE	NA	18			18	0
Migratory Bird Conservation Fund \$(000)	NA	916			916	0
FTE	NA	9			9	0
Total \$(000)	NA	2,418			2,418	0
FTE	NA	27			27	0

In November 2004, real estate appraisal functions within the Department were consolidated in order to achieve significant reform of the appraisal function. The new appraisal organization reports to the National Business Center. Funding to support the function is budgeted in the Land Acquisition Management accounts.

For 2004 and 2005 the Working Capital Fund centralized billing included \$2.4 million for the costs of appraisal salaries and benefits, but exclude other appraisal support costs. These estimates are based on preliminary estimates of the level appraisal services for 2004 and 2005.

The balance of costs to support the appraisal function including travel, training, etc. will be paid by the bureau in 2004. Costs for the appraisal function are being tracked in 2004 and information is being developed on the other relevant costs of the appraisal function. Based on this information, some of these additional costs will become the responsibility of the National Business Center and will be billed to the bureau beginning in 2005. We will keep Congress informed of our progress in this area.

Workload Information:

# of Appraisals Completed/Requested	2003	2004	2005	Totals
By Staff*	746	353	94	1,193
By Contract	563	801	973	2,337
Totals	1,309	1,154	1,067	3,530

* The reduction of appraisals to be completed by staff from 2004 to 2005 is primarily due to changes in the Small Lands Wetlands Program in Region 6. The Region will be calculating appraisals administratively, which will reduce the need for staff appraisals.

Cost Allocation Methodology (-\$113,000)

In FY 2001, the Service instituted a Cost Allocation Methodology (CAM) to distribute general business operating costs consistently to all programs and appropriations based on actual use (see General Operations for a more detailed description). Consistent with congressional direction, this request reflects the prohibition from charging CAM to projects and continues justifying a separate line item for these costs established in FY 2003. The proposed reduction reflects the Service's efforts to continue Land Acquisition streamlining, and accordingly, the need for reduced general business operating funds included in the CAM appropriation.

Exchanges (+\$506,000)

Land exchanges can realize efficiencies in refuge consolidation and management, providing alternatives to direct land purchases. The \$506,000 program increase reflects the Service priority to continue local cooperation and consultation through support of ongoing land exchanges.

Inholdings (+\$1,018,000)

The Inholding line item is used to acquire relatively low-valued tracts (roughly under \$300,000 each) at refuges where there is not an on-going land acquisition program. These tracts tend to arise infrequently and thus it would be impractical to request specific line item funding. An increase of \$1,018,000 is requested in order to cover the significant need for these low-valued tracts. In FY 2003 the Service received \$1,987,000 (post rescission), which were obligated within six months of being available. The carryover funds into FY 2004 consisted of \$49,551. In FY 2004, the Service received \$1,481,517 (post rescission). Current inholding requests total \$1,709,678. Any requests not able to be met in this FY will be rolled over to future appropriations.

Emergencies and Hardships (+\$1,012,000)

The Emergencies and Hardship line item is used by the Service to acquire unscheduled tracts on a case-by-case basis where there are extenuating circumstances. In order to qualify for this funding source, specific criteria must be met. These include an undue financial hardship on the part of the land owner where there is not sufficient time to move through the normal appropriations cycle for a specific line item request and where there exists imminent threat to the resource or the adjacent refuge if the tract is not acquired immediately. In FY 2005, the Service requests an additional \$1,012,000 in order to stay abreast of these emergency requests. In FY 2003, with an appropriation of \$1,987,000 (post rescission), the Service obligated all of the funds (and additional \$359,928 from prior year carryover) within a six month time period. Carryover funds into FY 2004 consisted of \$7,668. Current requests total \$622,000 thus far, and it is expected that the FY 2004 appropriation of \$987,678 (post rescission) will be obligated by May, 2004.

Federal Refuges/Projects (-\$524,000)

Funding for projects reflects a program decrease. It is estimated that the 20 projects will allow the Service to acquire approximately 48,230 acres of lands and interests in lands, continuing to support a strong land acquisition program. Grant programs in the Service budget enable States and communities other alternatives to both purchase and protect lands of high value for wildlife protection.

The -\$524,000 reduction to the land acquisition project funding in FY 2005 would allow the Service to acquire important habitat among various projects. Within the 2005 proposal, \$10,000,000 is directed to the North Boundary Area of the Quinault Indian Reservation in Washington, \$2,600,000 toward the Baca Ranch in Colorado, and \$4,578,000 toward the Barnes Ranch at Upper Klamath NWR. These proposals reflect efforts to preserve endangered Pacific Northwest species at the Quinault and Klamath projects and important Southwest groundwater and wetlands resources at the Baca Ranch.

The program will focus on using a balanced approach to incorporate new lands into the Refuge System. Innovative conservation tools such as easements will be used as well as fee title acquisition, when feasible. Projects will include local input and participation from affected local communities and stakeholders.

Program Performance Summary

DOI Strategic Goal: Resource Protection: Sustain Biological Communities on DOI Managed and Influenced Lands and Waters in a Manner Consistent with Obligations Regarding the Allocation and Use of Water							
DOI Strategy: Create Habitat Conditions for Biological Communities to Flourish							
DOI Intermediate Outcome Measure: FWS Workload Measure	2002 Actual	2003 Plan	2003 Actual	2004 Budget	2004 Plan	2005 Plan	Change 2004 Plan to 2005 Plan
Habitat Protection: Acres and stream/shoreline miles protected for habitat as specified in management plans and program objectives and consistent with applicable substantive and procedural requirements of State and Federal Water Law. <i>Note:</i> Acreage includes all land acquisition programs and is not specific to the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The project chart shows the proposed LWCF acreage.	233,961	192,733	510,316 *	155,000	155,000	158,511	+ 3,511

* There was a change in jurisdiction at Midway Island NWR which added 282,629 acres to the total acres acquired in FY 2003.

UPDATE ON LAND EXCHANGES FY 2004

The following refuges, waterfowl production areas, fish hatcheries, and Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) properties have ongoing projects in the negotiation or acquisition phases of the land exchange program. Other exchanges may be undertaken throughout FY 2004 as opportunities arise. An estimated \$1,416,500 in acquisition costs is projected for 692,618.79 acres. The completed exchange may involve expenditures over a period of years.

STATES	POTENTIAL EXCHANGES	ACRES TO BE ACQUIRED	MANAGEMENT COSTS
ALASKA	AK Maritime NWR/Adak	47,150.00	\$10,000
	AK Maritime NWR/Homer	2.57	\$10,000
	AK Maritime NWR/Koniag WB	189.00	\$20,000
	AK Maritime NWR/Shumagin Corp.	18,000.00	\$20,000
	AK Maritime NWR/Nikoski	341.39	\$15,000
	AK Maritime NWR/Sitkinak	1,653.00	\$15,000
	AK Maritime NWR/Newby	.85	\$10,000
	AK Peninsula NWR/Koniag	275,000.00	\$50,000
	Kenai NWR/ Cook Inlet Region, Inc.	3,000.00	\$25,000
	Yukon Deltal NWR/Newtok	12,101.00	\$30,000
	Yukon Deltal NWR/NIMA	37,000.00	\$45,000
	Yukon Deltal NWR/Nightmute	5.00	\$10,000
	Yukon Flats NWR/Doyon	180,000.00	\$100,000
	Yukon Flats NWR/Stevens Village	Undetermined	\$20,000
	Yukon Flats NWR/Beaver	30,000.00	\$20,000
ARIZONA	Buenos Aires NWR	1.00	\$5,000
ARKANSAS	Cache River NWR	348.00	\$15,000
	Felsenthal NWR	200.00	\$10,000
	Pond Creek NWR	240.00	\$15,000
	White River NWR	754.00	\$15,000
CALIFORNIA	San Diego NWR	80.00	\$5,000
	D.E. San Francisco Bay NWR (Cannery)	8.00	\$25,000
	D.E. San Francisco Bay NWR (Parking lot)	6.70	\$10,000
	Antioch Dunes NWR	.01	\$1,000
	Humboldt Bay NWR	.36	\$10,000
COLORADO	Colorado FmHA	45.26	\$50,000
	Arapaho NWR	39.47	\$10,000
	Baca NWR	25,000.00	\$20,000
FLORIDA	Hobe Sound NWR	80.44	\$34,000
	Lake Wales Ridge NWR	22.27	\$17,000
	Lower Suwannee NWR	178.00	\$15,000
	Loxahatchee NWR	2,000.00	\$15,000
GEORGIA	Piedmont NWR	420.00	\$12,500
	Savannah NWR	127.00	\$17,000
IDAHO	Camas NWR	4.00	\$5,000
	Minidoka NWR	1,135.00	\$5,000
ILLINOIS	Crab Orchard NWR	1720.00	\$25,000
IOWA	Wright County Waterfowl Protection Area	50.00	\$5,000
LOUISIANA	Grand Cote NWR	125.00	\$10,000
	Red River NWR	1,500.00	\$30,000

LAND ACQUISITION

STATES	POTENTIAL EXCHANGES	ACRES TO BE ACQUIRED	MANAGEMENT COSTS
MASSACHUSETTS	Nantucket NWR	200.00	\$100,000
MINNESOTA	MN Valley NWR	53.22	\$15,000
	Kandiyohi Co. WPA	Undetermined	\$5,000
	Big Stone Co. WPA	1.70	\$5,000
	Hamden Slough NWR	92.00	\$5,000
	Upper Miss River NW&FR	6.23	\$5,000
	Sherburne NWR	154.70	\$15,000
MISSISSIPPI	Mathews Brake NWR	14.00	\$17,000
	Noxubee NWR	102.40	\$15,000
	Panther Swamp	702.00	\$20,000
	St. Catherine Creek	445.00	\$35,000
	Yazoo NWR	320.00	\$15,000
MONTANA	Charles M. Russell NWR	50,000.00	\$100,000
	Medicine Lake NWR	48.00	\$50,000
	War Horse NWR	680.00	\$40,000
NEVADA	Stillwater NWR	170.00	\$8,000
NEW HAMPSHIRE	John Hay NWR	164.60	\$30,000
NEW JERSEY	E.B. Forsythe NWR	25.00	\$25,000
NEW YORK	Montezuma NWR	50.00	\$30,000
OREGON	Siletz Bay NWR	7.64	\$5,000
VERMONT	Pittsford NFH	.02	\$5,000
VIRGINIA	Back Bay NWR	1.49	\$10,000
WASHINGTON	Washington FmHA	8.00	\$5,000
	Little Pend Oreille	1.00	\$5,000
WEST VIRGINIA	Hendrix FmHA	5.60	\$5,000
WISCONSIN	Leopold WMD	22.00	\$15,000
WYOMING	Cokeville Meadows NWR	816.87	\$50,000
FY 2004 TOTAL		692,618.79	\$1,416,500

UPDATE ON LAND EXCHANGES FY 2005

The following refuges, waterfowl production areas, and Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) properties have ongoing projects in the negotiation or acquisition phases of the land exchange program. Other exchanges may be undertaken throughout FY 2005 as opportunities arise. An estimated \$1,239,000 in acquisition costs is projected for 631,458.68 acres. The completed exchange may involve expenditures over a period of years.

STATES	POTENTIAL EXCHANGES	ACRES TO BE ACQUIRED	MANAGEMENT COSTS
ALASKA	AK Maritime NWR/Shumagin Corp.	18,000.00	\$20,000
	AK Maritime NWR/Sitkinak	1,653.00	\$15,000
	AK Maritime NWR/Newby	.85	\$10,000
	AK Peninsula NWR/Koniag	275,000.00	\$50,000
	Kenai NWR/CIRI	3,000.00	\$25,000
	Yukon Deltal NWR/NIMA	37,000.00	\$45,000
	Yukon Deltal NWR/Nightmute	5.00	\$10,000
	Yukon Flats NWR/Doyon	180,000.00	\$100,000
	Yukon Flats NWR/Stevens Village	Undetermined	\$30,000
	Yukon Flats NWR/Beaver	30,000.00	\$30,000

STATES	POTENTIAL EXCHANGES	ACRES TO BE ACQUIRED	MANAGEMENT COSTS
ARKANSAS	Cache River NWR	240.00	\$12,500
	Felsenthal NWR	120.00	\$10,000
	Pond Creek NWR	120.00	\$10,000
	White River NWR	240.00	\$12,500
CALIFORNIA	San Diego NWR	24.00	\$7,000
COLORADO	Arapaho NWR	39.47	\$10,000
	Baca NWR	25,000.00	\$20,000
	Colorado FmHA	45.26	\$50,000
FLORIDA	Hobe Sound NWR	17.00	\$9,000
	Lake Wales Ridge NWR	580.00	\$40,000
	St. Marks NWR	98.00	\$10,000
IDAHO	Minidoka NWR	1,135.00	\$5,000
ILLINOIS	Crab Orchard NWR	1,720.00	\$25,000
INDIANA	Patoka River NWR	1,063.00	\$15,000
KENTUCKY	Clarks River NWR	1,200.00	\$40,000
LOUISIANA	Upper Ouachita NWR	600.00	\$15,000
MASSACHUSETTS	Nantucket NWR	200.00	\$100,000
MAINE	Aroostook NWR	30.00	\$50,000
MINNESOTA	Hamden Slough NWR	92.00	\$5,000
	Kandiyohi Co. WPA	Undetermined	\$5,000
	Upper Miss River NW&FR	6.23	\$5,000
MISSISSIPPI	Snake Creek Break FmHA	2075.00	\$30,000
	Yazoo NWR	250.00	\$15,000
MONTANA	Charles M. Russell NWR	50,000.00	\$100,000
	Medicine Lake NWR	48.00	\$50,000
	War Horse NWR	680.00	\$40,000
NEVADA	Stillwater NWR	10.00	\$3,000
NEW JERSEY	Edwin B. Forsythe NWR	25.00	\$50,000
NEW YORK	Montezuma NWR	40.00	\$10,000
SOUTH CAROLINA	Waccamaw NWR	5.00	\$5,000
WASHINGTON	Washington FmHA	8.00	\$5,000
WEST VIRGINIA	Canaan Valley NWR	250.00	\$75,000
WISCONSIN	Leopold WMD	22.00	\$15,000
WYOMING	Cokeville NWR	816.87	\$50,000
FY 2005 TOTAL		631,458.68	\$1,239,000

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LAND ACQUISITION

FY 2005 Land Acquisition Projects Summary Table

DOI Strategic Plan (Goal)	Project	LAPS Rank	Approp. to Date	Acres Acquired by 9/30/04	FY 2005 \$000	FY 2005 Acres	Remaining Acres to be Acquired after FY 2005	Estimated Annual O&M Costs for 2005 Acquisition
1.2	Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge	38	2,087	110,040	121	846	8,822	0
1.2	Baca National Wildlife Refuge	159	11,357	3,302	2,600	8,073	35,698	2,000
1.2	Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge	57	29,406	19,620	400	150	60,380	1,500
1.2	Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge	19	5,209	9,956	750	666	47,287	20,000
1.2	Cache River National Wildlife Refuge	2	5,836	60,690	850	482	92,654	10,000
1.2	Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge	17	14,915	15,378	127	85	19,833	1,500
1.2	Dakota Tallgrass Prairie WMA	10	6,079	45,605	650	6,500	128,028	1,000
1.2	Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge	30	30,117	45,898	750	68	13,636	1,200
1.2	Erie National Wildlife Refuge	27	0	8,777	250	235	488	1,200
1.2	Great White Heron National Wildlife Refuge	1	4,357	192,787	750	55	14,640	10,000
1.2	Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge	11	5,427	86,905	1,000	2,239	63,826	250,000
1.2	Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge	12	88,143	84,613	600	468	46,576	0
1.2	North Boundary Area of the Quinault Indian Reservation	NR	4,968	65	10,000	840	3,302	0
1.2	Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge	26	3,009	1,693	500	386	73,892	9,000
1.2	San Diego National Wildlife Refuge	13	30,552	10,012	1,000	70	27,511	0
1.2	Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge	7	8,474	30,430	1,000	303	46,629	5,000
1.2	St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge	3	4,335	68,972	1,000	645	21,978	5,000
1.2	Upper Klamath Lake National Wildlife Refuge	NR	123	14,966	4,578	2,560	0	100,000
1.2	Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge	6	1,012	207,025	500	228	24,392	20,000
1.2	Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge	15	0	0	1,750	23,333	14,267	40,000
	TOTALS		\$255,407	1,016,734	\$29,176	48,232	743,839	\$477,400

**Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge
Pavlof Unit - managed by Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska**

Acquisition Authority: *Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act*

LAPS Rank: 38

Location: Southern tip of the Alaska Peninsula, approximately 620 miles southwest of Anchorage

Congressional Districts: Alaska At-Large **Region 7**

Total Appropriations: \$2,087,170

Acquisition Status:

	<u>Ownerships</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Through FY 2003	7	110,040	308,960	3
Planned FY 2004	1	12,539	1,776,950	142
Proposed FY 2005	1	846	121,000	143
Remaining	9	8,822	2,929,000	332
Totals	18	132,247	\$5,135,910	\$39

Acres acquired through FY2003: (1) includes 62,228 acres of oil and gas estate; and (2) includes donations by the Richard King Mellon Foundation (34,159 acres) and the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund (515 acres), and other private donors/NAWCA grants (13,047 acres), with assistance from The Conservation Fund. Due to ANCSA requirements, the number of available tracts and acreage has changed from estimates included in the 2004 justification.

Planned FY04: Includes a post rescission LWCF appropriation of \$1,740,250 (FY03-FY04), plus Emergency & Hardship funds totaling \$23,550.

Purpose of Acquisition: Conservation of wetlands and other biologically diverse habitats for resident and migratory wildlife, including brown bears, caribou, moose, emperor geese, threatened Steller's eiders, Pacific brant, and tundra swans.

Project Cooperators: The Conservation Fund, The Nature Conservancy, Southwestern Alaska Conservation Coalition, village Native corporations, the Aleut Regional Corporation, the State of Alaska

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire a Native allotment within a key habitat area. This region of the Alaska Peninsula supports a very large population of brown bears (estimated at over 3,000 bears) and more than 15,000 caribou. The parcel and surrounding refuge lands provide migration and wintering habitat for caribou. Moose, wolves, fox, wolverine, and lynx also inhabit the area. Thousands of migratory and resident bird species, including tundra swans, greater white-fronted geese, emperor geese, mallards, northern pintails, American wigeons, greater scaup, and harlequin ducks nest or stage in the area.

Acquisition by the Service would ensure long-term conservation of resources, while providing the opportunity for both recreational and subsistence uses.

O & M: Acquisition would not increase O&M costs. The parcel is located within refuge boundaries and would be minimally managed like the surrounding refuge lands.

DOI Strategic Plan: The project supports the Resource Protection Goal 1.2 to Sustain Biological Communities on DOI Managed and Influenced Lands and Waters in a Manner Consistent with Obligations Regarding the Allocations and Use of Water, by creating habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish.

**Baca National Wildlife Refuge
Saguache and Alamosa Counties, Colorado**

Acquisition Authority: *Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve Act of 2000, Endangered Species Act of 1973 and Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956*

LAPS Rank: 159

Location: Located in the San Luis Valley, Colorado, adjacent to the Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Preserve

Congressional Districts: 3 **Region 6**

Total Appropriations: \$11,356,780

Acquisition Status:

	<u>Ownerships</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Through FY 2003	1	3,302	0	0
Planned FY 2004	0	45,427	11,356,820	250
Proposed FY 2005	1	8,073	2,600,000	322
Remaining	5	35,698	6,855,680	192
Totals	7	92,500	\$20,812,500	\$225

Total appropriation includes reduction in repayment of FY 2003 102 Fire Transfer. Amount transferred was \$2,080,000, amount repaid was \$1,555,533 (75% repayment). 76% undivided interest in FY 2004 and the remaining interest (18%) in FY 2005, 6% remaining to be purchased.

According to a Secretary of Interior agreement with The Nature Conservancy for the purchase of the Baca Ranch from the Cabeza de Vaca Ranch, the purchase will be a percent of an undivided interest in the entire acreage until 100% is acquired.

Total appropriations includes rescissions in FY2003 and FY 2004.

Purpose of Acquisition: P.L. 106-530 authorized the refuge to protect water resources, maintain water rights, and minimize adverse impacts on other water uses.

Project Cooperators: The Nature Conservancy

Project Description: Funds will be used to acquire Tract 66 that containing 53,500 acres within the 92,500 acre project boundary. The property is adjacent to tracts being actively managed for the black-capped vireo and golden-cheeked warbler, so would have high potential to be managed for one or both of these species. The biological diversity ranking for these wetlands is either "Significant" or "Very Significant" on a global scale. The San Luis Valley contains the largest and most important concentration of wetlands in Colorado, providing habitat for a myriad of water birds, including the largest nesting colonies of snowy egrets, white-faced ibis and black-crowned night herons in the state. They also provide critical migration habitat for the entire Rocky Mountain population of greater sandhill cranes. Fee purchase is the only purchase option agreeable to the owners. Since the origin of this refuge, there has been strong public involvement with the project.

O & M: After acquisition of all refuge property authorized by the legislation (92,500 acres), long-term management costs for this refuge will be approximately \$1,064,000 per year. The estimate, based on budget projections provided by the Refuge Operations Needs System, includes staff and additional operations and maintenance needs. The O&M costs for these tracts in FY 2005 would be less than \$2,000.

DOI Strategic Plan: The project supports the Resource Protection Goal 1.2 to Sustain Biological Communities on DOI Managed and Influenced Lands and Waters in a Manner Consistent with Obligations Regarding the Allocations and Use of Water, by creating habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish.

**Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge
Burnet, Travis and Williamson Counties, Texas**

Acquisition Authority: *Endangered Species Act of 1973, Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956*
LAPS Rank: 57
Location: Burnet, Travis and Williamson Counties, Texas
Congressional Districts: 21, 31 **Region 2**
Total Appropriations: \$29,406,141

Acquisition Status:

	<u>Ownerships</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Through FY 2003	52	19,620	29,417,120	1,499
Planned FY 2004	2	616	2,000,000	3,247
Proposed FY 2005	1	150	400,000	2,667
Remaining	248	60,380	90,570,000	1,500
Totals	303	80,766	\$122,387,120	\$1,515

Total Appropriations include Title V, Title VI, Title VIII and Title V reprogrammed funds

Purpose of Acquisition: To provide protection of essential breeding habitat for two endangered neotropical migratory birds, endangered cave dwelling invertebrates, and the natural biological diversity values of the Edwards Plateau region of Texas.

Project Cooperators: The Trust For Public Land, The Nature Conservancy, The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Friends of Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge, National Audubon Society, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, County Commissioners.

Project Description: FY 2005 funds will be used to purchase approximately 150 acres from the Trust for Public Lands as a continuance of the acquisition for Tract 13 begun in FY 2004. This tract has the same dense habitat as the adjoining refuge lands, and the acquisition will decrease fragmentation dramatically in that portion of the refuge. The endangered golden-cheeked warbler uses this habitat. The total tract acreage of 1,029 acres is being acquired as appropriations become available. The Service has used conservation easements, donations and fee acquisitions to accomplish project goals.

O & M: The estimated annual O&M costs associated with 2005 acquisition are \$1,500 for these acres.

DOI Strategic Plan: The project supports the Resource Protection Goal 1.2 to Sustain Biological Communities on DOI Managed and Influenced Lands and Waters in a Manner Consistent with Obligations Regarding the Allocations and Use of Water, by creating habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish.

**Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge
Nineteen Counties, Missouri**

Acquisition Authority: *Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956*
LAPS Rank: 19
Location: Various sites along the Missouri River between Kansas City and St. Louis
Congressional Districts: 1,2,3,4,5,6,9 **Region 3**
Total Appropriations: \$5,208,577

Acquisition Status:

	<u>Ownerships</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Through FY 2003	40	9,956	1,785,650	179
Planned FY 2004	6	2,091	2,712,150	1,297
Proposed FY 2005	2	666	750,000	1,126
Remaining	152	47,287	59,000,000	1,248
Totals	200	60,000	\$64,247,800	\$1,071

Total appropriation includes reduction in repayment of FY 2003 102 Fire Transfer. Amount transferred was \$600,000, amount repaid was \$448,711 (75% repayment). Total appropriations includes rescissions in FY 2003 and FY 2004. Prior year green books, in the late 1990's, did not incorporate official changes in the acquisition boundary resulting in a slight increase in the number of ownerships and acreage.

Purpose of Acquisition: To restore natural floodplain form and function to the extent possible for the benefit of dependent fish and wildlife species, including listed and candidate endangered species, for the benefit of the American public.

Project Cooperators: The project is supported by the U.S. Army Corps. of Engineers, Missouri's Departments of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Audubon Society - St. Louis Chapter, American Rivers, The River Network, Ducks Unlimited, the Great Rivers Land Trust, the Friends of the Big Muddy.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire six tracts in fee from willing sellers. The pre-settlement Missouri River was subject to large seasonal variations in flows which coursed through a 1,500-foot to one-mile-wide braided channel that was constantly eroding and shifting. These dynamic conditions resulted in a diversity of riverine and floodplain habitats including sheltered backwaters, sloughs and chutes, oxbow lakes, sandbars, gravel bars, mud flats, timbered islands, deep pools, shallow water areas, marshes, seasonally flooded bottomland forests, and wet prairies. Now, most of this once rich diversity is gone due to extensive human development of the river's water supply and floodplain. Past alterations and ongoing impacts to riverine habitats threaten migration and breeding habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, and other migratory birds. The purpose of these refuge additions is to preserve and restore natural river floodplain, manage fish and wildlife habitats, and provide for compatible public recreational use. Also, the project supports and complements the Missouri Department of Conservation's 10-year fisheries strategic plan for the Missouri River.

O & M: Total annual O&M costs are estimated to be \$20,000 for this acquisition and a one-time long-term management costs of \$20,000 for surveying and posting.

DOI Strategic Plan: The project supports the Resource Protection Goal 1.2 to Sustain Biological Communities on DOI Managed and Influenced Lands and Waters in a Manner Consistent with Obligations Regarding the Allocations and Use of Water, by creating habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish.

**Cache River National Wildlife Refuge
Woodruff, Prairie, Monroe, Jackson Counties, Arkansas**

Acquisition Authority: *Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986*
LAPS Rank: 2
Location: Lower Mississippi River Ecosystem. Lying adjacent to the White River, Cache River and Bayou DeView tributaries, the project extends from State Highway 79 near Clarendon, Arkansas, in Monroe County to Grubbs, Arkansas, in Jackson County.
Congressional Districts: 1 **Region 4**
Total Appropriations: \$5,836,327

Acquisition Status:

	<u>Ownerships</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Through FY 2003	142	60,690	44,341,093	731
Planned FY 2004	0	71	124,292	1,751
Proposed FY 2005	0	482	850,000	1,763
Remaining	328	92,654	245,872,078	2,654
Totals	470	153,897	\$291,187,463	\$1,892

Acquisition through FY 2003 includes donation of 787 acres and MBCF funds. Total appropriations includes rescissions in FY 2003.

Purpose of Acquisition: To preserve and protect wintering areas vital to the long-term conservation of migratory waterfowl.

Project Cooperators: The Arkansas Governor's Office, Natural Heritage Commission, Game & Fish Commission, Wildlife Federation, and local county governments, as well as The Nature Conservancy, U. S. Corps of Engineers, and Audubon Society.

Project Description: The project encompasses some of the largest remaining contiguous blocks of bottomland hardwood forest in the Lower Mississippi Valley, and some of the largest remaining expanses of forested wetlands on any tributary within the Mississippi Alluvial Valley. With at least 24 species of waterfowl utilizing the Lower Mississippi Valley during winter migration, this area supports one of the largest concentration of mallards anywhere in North America during this time period. During FY 2002, the Service entered into a purchase agreement with The Nature Conservancy to acquire a property of about 4,362 acres. The agreement was set up to provide for a multi-year phased acquisition contingent upon available funding. Biologically, this property represents over seven miles of very critical riparian habitat along the Cache River. Thus far, the Service has acquired or obligated funds for about 3,651 acres of this ownership. Of the remaining 711 acres to be acquired, about 158 acres will be acquired utilizing NAWCA grants in FY 2004. The remaining acreage, about 553 acres, at the proposed funding level, will complete the acquisition of the Morrison property.

O & M: Long-term management costs for the acquisition will be minimal. Annual O&M costs will be about \$10,000.

DOI Strategic Plan: The project supports the Resource Protection Goal 1.2 to Sustain Biological Communities on DOI Managed and Influenced Lands and Waters in a Manner Consistent with Obligations Regarding the Allocations and Use of Water, by creating habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish.

**Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge
Alexander, Johnson, Pulaski, and Union Counties, Illinois**

Acquisition Authority: *Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986*
LAPS Rank: 17
Location: Southern Illinois, at the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers
Congressional Districts: 12,19 **Region 3**
Total Appropriations: \$14,914,624

Acquisition Status:

	<u>Ownerships</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Through FY 2003	114	15,378	14,565,956	947
Planned FY 2004	4	412	337,344	819
Proposed FY 2005	1	85	127,000	1,494
Remaining	126	19,833	25,000,000	1,261
Totals	245	35,708	\$40,030,300	\$1,121

Total appropriation includes reduction in repayment of FY 2003 102 Fire Transfer. Amount transferred was \$300,000, amount repaid was \$224,356 (75% repayment). Total appropriations includes rescissions in FY 2003. (No appropriation in FY 2004; therefore, no rescission occurred.)

Purpose of Acquisition: To preserve, restore and manage wetlands and bottomland forest habitat in support of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

Project Cooperators: The Cache River Wetlands is a joint venture project with four partners - The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and the Service. The Cache River Wetlands project has received active support from local congressional representatives. Illinois Department of Natural Resources has recently constructed a four million dollar Cache River Wetlands Center. The Citizens Committee to Save the Cache River and the Friends of the Cache River Watershed are also cooperators.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire one 85-acre tract. The refuge, located in the Cache River watershed of southernmost Illinois, is a biologically rich area due to its location where four physiographic regions intersect. A natural resource partnership between federal, state, and private organizations has come together to preserve and restore this unique area. The Cache River wetlands teem with biodiversity, providing a home for 60 species of state-endangered plants and animals. The wetlands host the nation's greatest density of red-headed woodpeckers during the winter. Historically, vast tracts of naturally flooded bottomland hardwoods provided resting, nesting, and feeding habitat for ducks, geese, migrating songbirds, and a variety of other migratory birds and resident wildlife. Over the last 100 years, much of the area was cleared, drained, and converted to agriculture. The low-lying cropland (primarily soybeans and corn) is often too wet to farm and not capable of producing a crop in consecutive years. Ongoing land use practices on surrounding land deposit sediments in the Cache River watershed, which may seriously degrade water quality and wetland values. Since 1990, the Service has purchased 15,000 acres of land for the project from willing sellers. Fee purchase is the only option acceptable to the landowners.

O & M: Annual costs are estimated to be \$1,500 for this tract.

DOI Strategic Plan: The project supports the Resource Protection Goal 1.2 to Sustain Biological Communities on DOI Managed and Influenced Lands and Waters in a Manner Consistent with Obligations Regarding the Allocations and Use of Water, by creating habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish.

**Dakota Tallgrass Prairie WMA
Multiple Counties in North Dakota/South Dakota**

Acquisition Authority: *Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956*

LAPS Rank: 10

Location: The Northern Tallgrass Prairie Ecosystem located in northeastern South Dakota and southeastern North Dakota

Congressional Districts: 1 **Region 6**

Total Appropriations: \$6,079,428

Acquisition Status:

	<u>Ownerships</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Through FY 2003	145	45,605	5,761,380	126
Planned FY 2004	0	9,870	987,678	100
Proposed FY 2005	0	6,500	650,000	100
Remaining	0	128,028	7,631,577	60
Totals	145	190,003	\$15,030,635	\$79

Multiple parcels in FY 2004 and FY 2005. Total appropriations includes rescissions in FY 2003 and FY 2004.

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect the northern tallgrass prairie ecosystem and associated wildlife species.

Project Cooperators: The Nature Conservancy, the local community and congressional delegation also support these acquisitions.

Project Description: The funds would be used to protect approximately 1,375 acres of remaining native prairie within northeastern Brown County, South Dakota, and 5,125 additional acres identified in a large project boundary of eastern South Dakota and southeast North Dakota. Protection of the prairie will be accomplished through the acquisition of perpetual grassland easements from willing sellers. In 1995, with tallgrass prairie reduced to four percent of its original acreage, the Service officially identified the need to protect the remaining northern tallgrass prairie in North and South Dakota. This project incorporates almost exclusive use of grassland easements to protect 190,000 acres of tallgrass prairie in the Dakotas.

O & M: The estimated additional annual O&M cost for the FY 2005 acquisition is \$7,500.

DOI Strategic Plan: The project supports the Resource Protection Goal 1.2 to Sustain Biological Communities on DOI Managed and Influenced Lands and Waters in a Manner Consistent with Obligations Regarding the Allocations and Use of Water, by creating habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish.

**Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge
Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean Counties, New Jersey**

Acquisition Authority: *Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986*
LAPS Rank: 30
Location: 10 miles north of Atlantic City
Congressional Districts: 2,3,4 **Region 5**
Total Appropriations: \$30,117,122

Acquisition Status:

	<u>Ownerships</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre*</u>
Acquired Through FY 2003	333	45,898	45,822,002	998
Planned FY 2004	0	0	0	NA
Proposed FY 2005	2	68	750,000	11,029
Remaining	1031	13,636	16,552,500	1,214
Totals	1,366	59,602	\$63,124,502	\$1,059

* The majority of previous land acquisitions at E.B Forsythe NWR, dating back to the 1930s, consisted mostly of very low cost wetlands, such as marshlands and wooded swamps, using a mixture of LWCF and MBCA funding. Current proposed acquisitions, guided by a recently completed CCP which emphasizes connectivity of lands and protection of freshwater inflows, now include more costly upland developable areas.

Includes incidental acquisition costs and areas acquired with Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, Title V, and Title VI funds. Per acre land values vary depending on type of land acquired as well as location and size of parcels.

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect habitat important to Atlantic brant and other waterfowl and waterbirds, especially black ducks and rails, and protect habitat for threatened and endangered species.

Project Cooperators: State of New Jersey - Green Acres Program, Ocean County, New Jersey; and interest from the New Jersey Congressional delegation.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire two tracts totaling 68 acres. The Service currently holds six options on over 181 acres valued in excess of \$2,225,000. Edwin B. Forsythe NWR extends along 40 miles of the New Jersey coast and consists of estuarine marsh and brackish and fresh-water wetlands. The refuge was established to protect habitat for Atlantic brant, black ducks and rails, as approximately 35% of the entire Atlantic Flyway population of American black duck and 70% of the Flyway's Atlantic brant population winter here. The refuge includes the state's most productive areas for piping plovers, American woodcock, and the state-endangered osprey, woodcock, black skimmer and least tern. The Barnegat Bay area provides essential migratory habitat for waterfowl and passerine bird species, as well as federal and state endangered and threatened species such as the pied-billed grebe, northern harrier, peregrine falcon, Cooper's hawk, osprey and least tern. Barnegat Bay is designated as a National Estuary Program Area, and both Great Bay and Little Egg Harbor Bay are designated a National Estuarine Research Reserve.

O & M: Start-up cost would be \$5,000 for posting the property. The estimated annual O & M costs associated with this acquisition are \$1,200.

DOI Strategic Plan: The project supports the Resource Protection Goal 1.2 to Sustain Biological Communities on DOI Managed and Influenced Lands and Waters in a Manner Consistent with Obligations Regarding the Allocations and Use of Water, by creating habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish.

**Erie National Wildlife Refuge
Crawford County, Pennsylvania**

Acquisition Authority: *Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, Refuge Recreation Act*
LAPS Rank: 27
Location: Crawford County, Pennsylvania. Seneca Division is 25 miles south and Sugar Lake Division is 35 miles south of Lake Erie
Congressional Districts: 21, 5 **Region 5**
Total Appropriations: \$0

Acquisition Status:

	<u>Ownerships</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Through FY 2003	111	8,777	1,595,756	182
Planned FY 2004	0	0	0	NA
Proposed FY 2005	3	235	250,000	1,066
Remaining	11	488	794,760	1,629
Totals	125	9,500	\$2,640,516	\$278

Includes incidental acquisition costs and areas acquired with Migratory Bird Conservation Fund.

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect important migration and nesting habitat for waterfowl, as directed by the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

Project Cooperators: The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire six tracts totaling 469 acres. State and federally listed mussel and fish species are found on these tracts, including the federally endangered northern riffleshell and clubshell mussels. Acquisition of several of the high-priority tracts will serve to protect the water quality of Muddy Creek, where these species of concern are found. Erie NWR consists of the Seneca and Sugar Lake Divisions located approximately ten miles apart in Crawford County, Pennsylvania. The Sugar Lake Division was approved by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission on May 22, 1959, when the first tract was purchased. Historically, the refuge was an important nesting and resting area for waterfowl using the western portion of the Atlantic Flyway. During the 1800's, intensive logging and farming resulted in the loss of much valuable wetland habitat. The corresponding decline in waterfowl led to the creation of the refuge. The refuge's 2,500 acres of wetlands now attract thousands of migratory ducks, shorebirds, and neotropical songbirds for resting and feeding during their spring and fall migration periods. Erie NWR provides breeding habitat for common and even more uncommon birds such as the wood duck, the bobolink, the scarlet tanager, the indigo bunting, the black-throated green warbler, the northern waterthrush, the threatened bald eagle, and the rare sedge wren. Because of the habitat's remarkable diversity and richness, the refuge has been designated an Important Bird Area in Pennsylvania.

O & M: Estimated start-up costs would be \$3,000 for posting the property. The estimated O & M costs associated with this acquisition are \$1,200.

DOI Strategic Plan: The project supports the Resource Protection Goal 1.2 to Sustain Biological Communities on DOI Managed and Influenced Lands and Waters in a Manner Consistent with Obligations Regarding the Allocations and Use of Water, by creating habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish.

**Great White Heron National Wildlife Refuge
Monroe County, Florida**

Acquisition Authority: *Endangered Species Act of 1973; Refuge Recreation Act*
LAPS Rank: 1
Location: In the Florida Keys in Monroe County, on unpopulated islands on the north side of the lower Florida Keys bordering the Gulf of Mexico, in an area called "the Backcountry". The refuge stretches from north of Marathon (90 miles southwest of Miami) to north of Key West (130 miles southwest of Miami).
Congressional Districts: 20 **Region 4**
Total Appropriations: \$4,357,071

Acquisition Status:

	<u>Ownerships</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Through FY 2003	23	192,787	4,357,071	23
Planned FY 2004	0	0	0	NA
Proposed FY 2005	3	55	750,000	13,636
Remaining	20	14,640	57,541,256	3,930
Totals	46	207,482	\$62,648,327	\$302

Acquired acres through FY 2003 include Back Country Management Agreement (in-holding which Service has leased) which provides Service authority to manage 185,086 acres through 2017. The majority of the large parcels were purchased prior to 1980 when land costs were significantly lower.

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect important wading bird rookeries and sea turtle nesting habitat, minimize human impacts, and restore wildlife habitat on unpopulated islands located within the Great White Heron National Wildlife Refuge, in an area known as "the Backcountry."

Project Cooperators: The Conservation Fund; The Nature Conservancy; State of Florida; Monroe County Land Authority; World Wildlife Fund

Project Description: Funds requested for FY 2005 will be used to acquire wading bird rookery and sea turtle nesting habitat on three unpopulated islands within "the Backcountry" portion of the refuge. The islands, or chains of islands, which are most in need of immediate protection are: the 30-acre parcel known as Riding Key; the 20-acre parcel known as Budd Key; and the 5-acre parcel known as Tarpon Belly Key. The estimated acquisition costs for these islands are: \$150,000, \$300,000 and \$300,000, respectively. Lands acquired with FY 2005 funds will enable the refuge to protect valuable habitat and thereby minimize human impacts and restore valuable wildlife habitat for wading birds and nesting sea turtles. The Service has been successful with landowner negotiations in the past and has established partnerships with both Monroe County and the State of Florida through leases and Memorandums of Understanding. Local support for the refuge and land acquisition is strong. The refuge is assisted by several friends groups, not-for-profit organizations, and volunteers. Easements and fee acquisitions remain as options, along with appropriated funding and partnerships.

O & M: Annual O&M costs for the above stated parcels would be less than \$10,000.

DOI Strategic Plan: The project supports the Resource Protection Goal 1.2 to Sustain Biological Communities on DOI Managed and Influenced Lands and Waters in a Manner Consistent with Obligations Regarding the Allocations and Use of Water, by creating habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish.

**Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge
Cameron and Willacy Counties, Texas**

Acquisition Authority: *Migratory Bird Conservation Act ; Endangered Species Act of 1973; Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956*

LAPS Rank: 11

Location: The refuge is located approximately 12 miles northeast of Brownsville, TX, and 13 miles east of Harlingen, TX.

Congressional Districts: 27 **Region 2**

Total Appropriations: \$5,427,425

Acquisition Status:

	<u>Ownerships</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Through FY 2003	22	86,905	13,073,526	150
Planned FY 2004	5	583	291,915	501
Proposed FY 2005	5	2,239	1,000,000	447
Remaining	289	63,826	31,913,000	500
Totals	321	153,553	\$46,278,441	\$301

FY 2004 planned funds include \$291,915 carryover funds, total appropriations includes rescissions in FY 2003

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect migratory waterfowl wintering areas, natural biodiversity values, and endangered species habitat for ocelots, peregrine falcons, aplomado falcons, sea turtles, piping plovers, and other wildlife and fish species.

Project Cooperators: The Nature Conservancy, The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, The Conservation Fund, Valley Land Fund, Friends of Laguna Atascosa, National Audubon Society, Ducks Unlimited, Environmental Synergy, Inc., Natural Resources Conservation Service, The Peregrine Fund, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Bayview Irrigation District, Cameron County Commissioners.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire five tracts totaling approximately 2,000 acres from willing sellers. Protection of land near the Laguna Madre, a hypersaline body of water, would help ensure good water quality for marine organisms that use the area as a nursery. The parcels proposed for acquisition provide habitat and dispersal corridors for numerous wildlife species, including endangered felids (especially the ocelot) and neotropical birds, and protect biodiversity values. These parcels are adjacent or nearby to existing refuge tracts, so they would complement refuge units. One of the proposed acquisitions is a phased conservation easement. The Service is partnering with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, The Conservation Fund, The Nature Conservancy, and the Valley Land Fund.

O & M: No additional O&M is required because both short-term and long-term management is accomplished through use of existing staff positions and a strong volunteer program.

DOI Strategic Plan: The project supports the Resource Protection Goal 1.2 to Sustain Biological Communities on DOI Managed and Influenced Lands and Waters in a Manner Consistent with Obligations Regarding the Allocations and Use of Water, by creating habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish.

**Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge
Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr and Willacy Counties, Texas**

Acquisition Authority: *Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, Refuge Recreation Act of 1962*

LAPS Rank: 12

Location: The refuge is located approximately 12 miles northeast of Brownsville, TX, and 13 miles east of Harlingen, TX.

Congressional Districts: 15,27,28 **Region 2**

Total Appropriations: \$88,143,398

Acquisition Status:

	<u>Ownerships</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Through FY 2003	315	84,613	86,905,153	1,027
Planned FY 2004	1	843	1,250,567	1,483
Proposed FY 2005	1	468	600,000	1,282
Remaining	798	46,576	46,576,000	1,000
Totals	1,115	132,500	\$135,331,720	\$1,021

FY 2004 planned funds includes \$250,567 carryover funds. Total appropriations includes rescissions in FY 2004.

Purpose of Acquisition: The refuge was established to protect existing native, subtropical brush lands and protect, enhance, and restore other adjacent diverse biotic communities of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The protected corridor runs from Falcon Dam to the mouth of the Rio Grande and north to the Laguna Atascosa NWR. It includes wetlands, barrier islands, and endangered species habitat.

Project Cooperators: The Nature Conservancy, The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, The Conservation Fund, Valley Land Fund, Friends of the Wildlife Corridor, National Audubon Society, Ducks Unlimited, North American Butterfly Association, Environmental Synergy, Inc., Natural Resources Conservation Service, International Boundary and Water Commission, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, County Commissioners.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire approximately 468 acres of land from a willing seller. The refuge provides an important migration corridor for neotropical migratory bird species and is a sanctuary for a number of endangered species of plants and animals, including the piping plover, peregrine falcon, ocelot and jaguarandi. A portion of the project lies adjacent to the Gulf of Mexico providing habitat for marine and freshwater species on lands bordering the Rio Grande. The refuge provides habitat for many species including approximately 560 species of vertebrates, almost 400 species of birds, 300 species of butterflies, and 1,100 species of plants. These parcels are adjacent or nearby to existing refuge tracts, and would complement existing refuge units.

O & M: O&M costs for the project are minimal because the refuge is already established and additional lands can be incorporated into the existing unit management plan with little or no additional expense. Management, both short and long-term, is accomplished through use of existing staff positions and a strong volunteer program.

DOI Strategic Plan: The project supports the Resource Protection Goal 1.2 to Sustain Biological Communities on DOI Managed and Influenced Lands and Waters in a Manner Consistent with Obligations Regarding the Allocations and Use of Water, by creating habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish.

**North Boundary Area of the Quinault Indian Reservation
Grays Harbor County, Washington**

Acquisition Authority: *Pending FY 2005 budget appropriation language. Funds would be used for purchase of perpetual conservation easements from the Quinault Indian Nation.*

LAPS Rank: Not Ranked

Location: Olympic Peninsula approximately 90 miles west of Olympia, WA

Congressional Districts: 6 **Region 1**

Total Appropriations: \$4,967,500

Acquisition Status:

	<u>Ownerships</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Through FY 2003	0	485	5,996,196	12,363
Planned FY 2004	0	420	5,000,000	11,905
Proposed FY 2005	0	840	10,000,000	11,905
Remaining	1	2,463	29,003,804	11,781
Totals	1	4,207	\$50,000,000	\$11,885

Acquired through 2003 Landowner Incentive Grant, unit price based on Quinault Indian Nation's appraisal figures. Funds appropriated in P.L. 108-7 are to be transferred to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the acquisition of perpetual conservation easements, per Conference Report 108-330. Figures derived from the Agreement signed July 2000 (and updated in 2001) reflect overall total value of timber in Conservation Blocks 1 & 2. Total appropriations includes rescissions in FY 2003. Total appropriation includes reduction in repayment of FY 2003 102 Fire Transfer. Amount transferred was \$3,800,000, amount repaid was \$3,800,000 (100% repayment).

Purpose of Acquisition: To preserve and protect high-quality old-growth forest occupied by marbled murrelets and northern spotted owls through the purchase of conservation easements that do not allow cutting of certain old-growth timber blocks in perpetuity.

Project Cooperators: The Trust for Public Land, Quinault Indian Nation

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire an 840-acre easement from the Quinault Indian Nation (tribe) to protect old-growth forest occupied by marbled murrelets and northern spotted owls. In 1988, Congress passed an amendment to the boundary of the Olympic National Forest, returning the North Boundary Area to the Tribe, primarily to generate timber harvest revenue for the Tribe. In January 1998, the Service issued a jeopardy biological opinion with a Reasonable and Prudent Alternative on a plan proposed by the tribe to harvest much of its high-quality old-growth timber, most of which is occupied by marbled murrelets and northern spotted owls. The Service concluded that the proposed logging would jeopardize the murrelet due to impacts to its reproduction, numbers, and distribution. The Reasonable and Prudent Alternative allows harvest of low-quality old-growth forest, and protection of the highest quality old-growth forest. A second alternative created Conservation Blocks 1 and 2. In July 2000, the Department of the Interior, the Tribe and Trust for Public Land (TPL) signed an agreement to appraise the timber and seek federal money to buy future perpetual easements on the Conservation Blocks. The agreement stated that the Department and TPL would seek and support funding of up to \$50 million from federal appropriations and outside funding sources to purchase the easements. The Tribe subsequently filed a lawsuit asserting their claim to an amount in excess of \$92,354,000.

O & M: The estimated annual O & M costs associated with this acquisition are \$0.

DOI Strategic Plan: The project supports the Resource Protection Goal 1.2 to Sustain Biological Communities on DOI Managed and Influenced Lands and Waters in a Manner Consistent with Obligations Regarding the Allocations and Use of Water, by creating habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish.

**Northern Tallgrass Prairie National Wildlife Refuge
85 Counties, Minnesota and Iowa**

Acquisition Authority: *Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956*
LAPS Rank: 26
Location: Eighty-five counties in western Minnesota and northwestern Iowa.
Congressional Districts: 1,2,7 (Minnesota); 2,3,4,5 (Iowa) **Region 3**
Total Appropriations: \$3,008,759

Acquisition Status:

	<u>Ownerships</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Through FY 2003	11	1,693	1,726,807	1,020
Planned FY 2004	4	1,147	1,290,993	1,126
Proposed FY 2005	2	386	500,000	1,295
Remaining	833	73,892	22,000,000	298
Totals	850	77,118	\$25,517,800	\$331

Total appropriations includes rescissions in FY 2003 and FY 2004.

Purpose of Acquisition: Protect and restore northern tallgrass prairie and aspen parkland ecosystems and associated wildlife species.

Project Cooperators: The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, The Nature Conservancy, Minnesota Waterfowl Association, several county conservation boards and several local Chambers of Commerce

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire two tracts, some 386 acres within the 77,000-acre acquisition area located in 48 counties of western Minnesota and 37 counties in northwestern Iowa. The tracts involve easement acquisition. This area contains some of the last remnants of northern tallgrass prairie and more than 300 vascular plant species and 1,500 insect species. Wildlife associated with this area include upland sandpiper, marbled godwit, sandhill crane, 12 species of waterfowl, and prairie chicken. The northern tallgrass prairie has been diminished by agricultural expansion, overgrazing, gravel extraction, and woody plant encroachment. Both easement and fee purchase are agreeable to the landowners.

O & M: The estimated annual O&M costs associated with this acquisition are \$9,000.

DOI Strategic Plan: The project supports the Resource Protection Goal 1.2 to Sustain Biological Communities on DOI Managed and Influenced Lands and Waters in a Manner Consistent with Obligations Regarding the Allocations and Use of Water, by creating habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish.

**San Diego National Wildlife Refuge
San Diego County, California**

Acquisition Authority: *Endangered Species Act of 1973, Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986*

LAPS Rank: 13

Location: Near the City of San Diego

Congressional Districts: 49, 50, 51, 52 **Region 1**

Total Appropriations: \$30,551,668

Acquisition Status:

	<u>Ownerships</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Through FY 2003	36	10,012	32,377,161	3,234
Planned FY 2004	4	300	2,000,000	6,667
Proposed FY 2005	1	70	1,000,000	14,286
Remaining	472	27,511	unknown	unknown
Totals	513	37,893	\$35,377,161	\$934

Costs for acquisitions through FY 2003 are adjusted to include Title V and Title VIII funds. The total cost to acquire the remaining lands is unknown at this time. Total appropriations includes rescissions in FY 2003 and FY 2004. Per acre values differ substantially from tract to tract because of changes in development potential and local planning restrictions. Some acreage zoned as mitigation lands may fall in the \$5,000 per acre range, while developable land will start at \$15,000 per acre. Unlike other areas, San Diego County uses development “bubbles” rather than traditional parcel-by-parcel zoning, meaning that one tract may have both mitigation and developable land.

Purpose of Acquisition: To support the Department of the Interior’s Southern California Ecosystem-wide Land Acquisition Initiative by continuing funding the Service’s participation in an extremely successful federal, state and local partnership that acquires, protects and manages key habitats for endangered, threatened, and rare species in San Diego County.

Project Cooperators: Trust for Public Land, local jurisdictions, State of California, California Department of Fish and Game, private landowners.

Project Description: Funds requested will be used to pursue two small tracts within the refuge acquisition boundaries in coordination with the State of California’s Natural Communities Conservation Planning program (NCCP) and San Diego County’s Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP). The Service continues to cooperate with more than a dozen local jurisdictions, the California Department of Fish and Game, and many private landowners to permanently protect 172,000 acres of natural habitat within the 582,000-acre MSCP planning area in southwestern San Diego County. These partnerships will allow the Service to assist in recovery efforts for listed species, such as the coastal California gnatcatcher and the endangered least Bell’s vireo, by restoring habitat on acquired lands, and to provide wildlife experiences and environmental education opportunities for nearly three million people who live in the area. Refuge land acquisitions not only help meet federal, state and local natural resource goals, but may also reduce the need for additional listings under the federal and state Endangered Species Acts.

O & M: Annual O&M costs for this acquisition are estimated to be \$0.

DOI Strategic Plan: The project supports the Resource Protection Goal 1.2 to Sustain Biological Communities on DOI Managed and Influenced Lands and Waters in a Manner Consistent with Obligations Regarding the Allocations and Use of Water, by creating habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish.

**Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge
Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut**

Acquisition Authority: P.L.102- 212

LAPS Rank: 7

Location: Incorporating segments of the Connecticut River and its watershed, in the states of Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont and New Hampshire.

Congressional Districts: 1, 2, 3 **Region 5**

Total Appropriations: \$8,474,125

Acquisition Status:

	<u>Ownerships</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Through FY 2003	12	30,430	9,569,836	314
Planned FY 2004	3	1,036	744,715	719
Proposed FY 2005	4	303	1,000,000	3,300
Remaining	1980	46,629	18,685,785	401
Totals	1,999	78,398	\$30,000,336	\$383

Includes incidental acquisition costs and lands acquired with the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, Title V, and Title VI funds. Includes donated acres that deflates the cost per acre. Total appropriations includes rescissions in FY 2003 and FY 2004. Prior year acquisitions have been in remote areas while proposed acquisitions will be in more developed areas in Connecticut.

Purpose of Acquisition: To preserve, protect, and enhance the natural diversity of plants and animals of the Connecticut River watershed.

Project Cooperators: The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, The Conservation Fund.

Project Description: Funds would be used to purchase four parcels consisting of approximately 303 acres. There are 38 major tributaries to the Connecticut River, 16 mainstem dams and almost 1,000 smaller dams, as well as 390 towns and 2.2 million inhabitants within the watershed. The northern third of the watershed located in Vermont and New Hampshire is part of the northern forest ecosystem. Important bottomland forest, flood plain wetlands, and a variety of grassland areas are generally located along the middle third of the river in western Massachusetts and northern Connecticut. The refuge will partner and contribute toward research, inventory, and management projects and assist a variety of landowners, state agencies, municipalities, water supply districts, land trusts, conservation organizations, and landowners as a means of accomplishing refuge purposes. Traditional and non-traditional resource protection strategies are used within the vicinity of the 48 Special Focus Areas identified in the Final Environmental Impact Statement and on small scattered sites of particular importance to a rare species, or hosting a rare or exemplary community. The refuge encourages and supports mutually beneficial work with agencies, conservation organizations, landowners, and citizens. Land trusts and conservation groups continue to be encouraged to become involved.

O & M: Annual O&M costs are estimated to be \$5,000. Long-term costs include monumenting and posting which is estimated to be approximately \$1,500.

DOI Strategic Plan: The project supports the Resource Protection Goal 1.2 to Sustain Biological Communities on DOI Managed and Influenced Lands and Waters in a Manner Consistent with Obligations Regarding the Allocations and Use of Water, by creating habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish.

**St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge
Jefferson, Taylor and Wakulla Counties, Florida**

Acquisition Authority: *Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956*
LAPS Rank: 3
Location: North Florida Gulf Coast, 25 miles south of Tallahassee, Florida.

Congressional Districts: 2 **Region 4**
Total Appropriations: \$4,335,000

Acquisition Status:

	<u>Ownerships</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Through FY 2003	51	68,972	4,335,000	63
Planned FY 2004	0	52	79,923	1,537
Proposed FY 2005	0	645	1,000,000	1,550
Remaining	18	21,978	37,486,677	1,706
Totals	69	91,647	\$42,901,600	\$468

Lands acquired through FY 2003 includes 93 acres covered by long-term MOU with Suwannee River Water Management District, and about 32,000 acres donated or transferred from other agencies. Total appropriations includes rescissions in FY 2003.

Purpose of Acquisition: To acquire habitat of tidal marsh and tidal streams which are important components of a vast adjoining estuary system.

Project Cooperators: The Conservation Fund; USDA Forest Service; State of Florida; The Nature Conservancy; Wakulla County Extension Office; St. Marks Refuge Association; U. S. Coast Guard.

Project Description: Funds requested will be used to acquire an additional portion of the St. Joe's Paper Company tract. This proposed acquisition will close out a large portion of the refuge acquisition boundary and enhance protection for a tidal marsh area that lies south of the current refuge boundary and east of the town of Panacea. The refuge supports an abundance of wildlife species, including 459 vertebrate species excluding fish. These include seven federally endangered species, four federally threatened species and three State of Florida threatened species. Both resident and migrant species benefit from the marsh and upland management program. The 17,500-acre Wilderness Area provides an oasis habitat that attracts over 200,000 visitors each year to birdwatch, photograph, hike, fish, picnic and simply enjoy the serenity and beauty of the refuge. There is active public support for the refuge. State and other federal agencies have been involved with the refuge. There is an active refuge friends volunteer support group and the refuge provides many opportunities for environmental education programs. The Nature Conservancy is working closely with the refuge and the St. Joe's Paper Company to accomplish the above listed acquisitions. The only option agreeable to the owners is fee simple purchase of the property.

O & M: The annual operating and maintenance costs of these tracts are estimated to be \$5,000.

DOI Strategic Plan: The project supports the Resource Protection Goal 1.2 to Sustain Biological Communities on DOI Managed and Influenced Lands and Waters in a Manner Consistent with Obligations Regarding the Allocations and Use of Water, by creating habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish.

**Upper Klamath Lake National Wildlife Refuge
Klamath County, Oregon**

Acquisition Authority: *Endangered Species Act of 1973*
LAPS Rank: Not Ranked
Location: In Klamath County Northeast of Klamath Falls, Oregon west of Highway 97.
Congressional Districts: 02 **Region 1**
Total Appropriations: \$123,476

Acquisition Status:

	<u>Ownerships</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Through FY 2003	3	14,966	123,476	8
Planned FY 2004	0	0	0	NA
Proposed FY 2005	1	2,560	4,578,000	1,788
Remaining	0	0	0	NA
Totals	4	17,526	\$4,701,476	\$268

The initial funds used to acquire lands at this project came from the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund. The proposed acquisition in FY 2005 is not within the approved project acquisition boundary which will need to be expanded to cover this acquisition.

Purpose of Acquisition: To enhance water quality and restore habitat for the endangered Lost River and shortnose suckers as well as anadromous fish populations downstream of Upper Klamath Lake.

Project Cooperators: Potentially, the American Land Conservancy.

Project Description: The proposed \$4,578,000 request would be put toward the purchase of a 2,560-acre tract. A new private appraisal is currently undergoing review. This property was valued at \$4.56 million in 2001 under an appraisal reviewed and approved by the Bureau of Reclamation using federal appraisal standards. Refuge planning for an expansion, including NEPA review and subsequent Director approval, will be necessary before the acquisition can be completed. The proposed acquisition was converted from lake and emergent wetland habitat to agricultural lands in the 1960's. Restoration of the 2,560 acres of lake and emergent wetland habitat adjacent to Upper Klamath Lake and Upper Klamath National Wildlife Refuge will provide quality habitat for larval and juvenile suckers and a host of native waterbirds. The suckers include the endangered Lost River and shortnose suckers whose base habitat is Upper Klamath Lake. It will also improve water quality for the lake and downstream anadromous fish, and increase water storage in the lake.

A lack of suitable larval and juvenile habitat (emergent wetland vegetation) coupled with poor water quality has had a detrimental effect on Lost River and shortnose suckers in Upper Klamath Lake. It is believed that the large marshes (greater than 30,000 acres) that historically surrounded the lake collected and stored nutrients before they entered the lake. Conversion of these historic marshes to agricultural lands not only removed this important filtering process, but also discharged back into the lake the nutrients that had been gathering over time in the marshes. The release of excessive nutrients into Upper Klamath Lake – high levels of phosphorous and nitrogen – caused algae blooms, decreased dissolved oxygen, and increased pH and concentrations of un-ionized ammonia. As a result, the poor water quality caused several major fish kills in suckers as well as other native species during the 1990's.

Restoration of this property to lake and emergent wetlands would reestablish the vital role that the marshes serve in filtering nutrients and provide critical habitat for larval and juvenile suckers. Restoration would entail breaching the levees to the lake and letting both the property as well as the

adjacent Agency Lake Ranch (currently owned by USBR) to be flooded by current lake levels within Upper Klamath Lake. In addition to improving water quality for the endangered suckers, water quality and quantity to the mainstem Klamath River would also be improved. The Klamath River supports the third largest salmon run on the West Coast of the continental United States. A large Native American subsistence fishery for salmon exists on the lower Klamath River.

The American Land Conservancy is a potential cooperator in this acquisition and would work to bring additional funding to bridge a shortfall. Management of the property would be conducted with input from local landowners, native tribes, and the general public.

O & M: After approved boundary expansion and purchase, levees adjacent to private landowners may need to be strengthened to reduce the potential for flooding. Additional funds will be needed to breach other levees to restore lake and emergent wetland habitat to the property. Once levees are breached, the property will be managed similar to the adjacent Upper Klamath National Wildlife Refuge where wetland levels are regulated by lake levels, without active management. The property also has a fully adjudicated water right of 7,900 acre feet. That water right would be dedicated to instream flow in Upper Klamath Lake and would aid downstream flows.

Recent topographic survey information from the property indicates that greater than 60 percent lies 4,140 feet above sea level. Reestablishing emergent wetland vegetation at this elevation requires less intensive management practices than at lower elevations. In addition, management of the property would be carried out as part of Upper Klamath Lake National Wildlife Refuge to achieve cost efficiencies. Under this passive management regime, operations and maintenance costs are expected to be less than \$100,000 per year.

DOI Strategic Plan: The project supports the Resource Protection Goal 1.2 to Sustain Biological Communities on DOI Managed and Influenced Lands and Waters in a Manner Consistent with Obligations Regarding the Allocations and Use of Water, by creating habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish.

**Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge
Portions of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois**

Acquisition Authority: *Emergency Wetland Resources Act of 1986*

LAPS Rank: 6

Location: 260 miles along the Mississippi River between Wabasha, MN and Rock Island, IL

Congressional Districts: MN.1, IA.1&2,IL. 16&17,WI. 3 **Region 3**

Total Appropriations: \$1,012,127

Acquisition Status:

	<u>Ownerships</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Through FY 2003	887	207,025	1,803,812	9
Planned FY 2004	2	100	129,559	1,296
Proposed FY 2005	5	228	500,000	2,193
Remaining	646	24,392	34,000,000	1,394
Totals	1,540	231,745	\$36,433,371	\$157

Acquisitions through FY 2003 includes Migratory Bird Conservation Account funds and the transfer from the Department of the Army of 3,022 acres at the former Savannah Army Depot. Total appropriations includes rescissions in FY 2003. Land values vary based on the diverse nature of land types, access, and location within refuge acquisition boundaries. The parcels proposed for acquisition in FY 2005 have a buildable upland component that is of higher monetary value. Within the floodplain, wetlands and other less accessible areas tend to cost much less per acre.

Purpose of Acquisition: To protect, restore, and manage grassland and wetland habitat for migratory birds, including waterfowl, resident wildlife, and public recreation.

Project Cooperators: The project is supported by many partners including the U.S. Army Corps. of Engineers, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Audubon Society, Friends of the Upper Mississippi NWR, and Ducks Unlimited.

Project Description: Funds would be used to acquire five tracts totaling approximately 228 acres. The Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge consists of wooded islands, sandbars, deep water, wet meadows, and other wetlands. Winding through the midst of a settled, busy Midwestern landscape, the refuge is influenced by urbanization and development. The refuge is primarily managed for wildlife, but offers excellent opportunities for sightseeing, outdoor recreation, hunting, and fishing. More than three million people visit the refuge each year, exceeding the annual visitation at Yellowstone National Park. The refuge is part of the major migration corridor for waterfowl and other birds in the Mississippi Flyway. Up to 50 percent of the nation's canvasbacks and 30,000 tundra swans use portions of the refuge during migration. A wide variety of other wildlife species, including federally-listed endangered or threatened species, use the refuge, such as the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, and Higgins' eye pearly mussel. The refuge has 120 active bald eagle nests each spring. Fee purchase is the only mode of acquisition acceptable to the landowners.

O & M: Annual O&M costs are estimated to be \$20,000 for these tracts.

DOI Strategic Plan: The project supports the Resource Protection Goal 1.2 to Sustain Biological Communities on DOI Managed and Influenced Lands and Waters in a Manner Consistent with Obligations Regarding the Allocations and Use of Water, by creating habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish.

**Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge
Coastal Zone – Southwest Alaska**

Acquisition Authority: *Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act*

LAPS Rank: 15

Location: Yukon and Kuskokwim River Deltas, Southwest Alaska

Congressional Districts: 1 **Region 7**

Total Appropriations: \$0

Acquisition Status:

	<u>Ownerships</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>\$/Acre</u>
Acquired Through FY 2003	0	0	0	NA
Planned FY 2004	0	0	0	NA
Proposed FY 2005	1	23,333	1,750,000	75
Remaining	6	14,267	1,170,000	82
Totals	7	37,600	\$2,920,000	\$78

Total appropriations includes rescissions in FY 2004.

Purpose of Acquisition: To conserve critical nesting habitat of Arctic-nesting geese, swans, ducks and shorebirds. High priority lands are those within important nesting areas that are surrounded by refuge lands.

Project Cooperators: Calista Regional Corporation, Sea Lion Native Corporation, Southwestern Alaska Conservation Coalition, The Conservation Fund, The Nature Conservancy, State of Alaska.

Project Description: As part of a phased conservation easement acquisition plan, funds would be used to purchase approximately 36,800 acres on a tract of Native corporation land in the coastal zone of the Yukon Delta Refuge. This tract provides nesting habitat for an estimated 12.5% of the world population of cackling Canada geese and more than 13% of the world population of emperor geese. Escalating off-road motorized vehicle use in this sensitive area has concerned both the landowner and the Service. The importance of the Delta's coastal zone is difficult to overstate. It is the most important nesting area worldwide for tundra swans, spectacled eiders, Pacific brant, emperor geese, and cackling Canada geese. Each year, waterfowl from all four flyways, lesser sandhill cranes, and tundra swans converge on the coastal zone's intricate network of wetlands, lakes, ponds, inlets, bays, and coastal estuaries. A large fraction of the Pacific Rim or world populations of bristle-thighed curlews, black turnstones, bar-tailed godwits, red knots, western sandpipers, rock sandpipers, and dunlins nest or stage in the coastal zone. These species depend on food-rich staging areas to build fat reserves for long-distance migrations. The purchase of a few small parcels and a non-development easement that restricts motorized access in key production areas would ensure long-term conservation of habitats.

O & M: The start-up costs are expected to be approximately \$60,000. Annual O&M costs are expected to be about \$40,000.

DOI Strategic Plan: The project supports the Resource Protection Goal 1.2 to Sustain Biological Communities on DOI Managed and Influenced Lands and Waters in a Manner Consistent with Obligations Regarding the Allocations and Use of Water, by creating habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish.

LAND ACQUISITION

Comparison by Activity/ Subactivity	2003		2004		Uncontrollable & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	2005 Budget Request	Change from 2004
	Actual	FTE	Estimate	FTE				
Land acquisition management	9,935		8,394		+70	-99	93	-29
		98		111		-18		-18
Cost allocation methodology	2,484		2,032		+81	-113	2,000	-32
Exchanges	993		494			+506	1,000	+506
Inholdings	1,987		1,482			+1,018	2,500	+1,018
Emergencies and hardships	1,987		988			+1,012	2,000	+1,012
Federal refuges	55,507		29,700			-524	29,176	-524
Transfer to BIA	0		-4,968			+4,968	0	+4,968
Total direct program	72,893		38,122		+151	+6,768	45,041	+6,919
		98		111		-18	93	-18
Total reimbursable program		390		5,800		-5,800	0	-5,800
Total appropriation	73,283		43,922		+151	+968	45,041	+1,119
		98		111		0	93	-18

Summary of Requirements by Object Class (Dollar amounts in thousands)										
Appropriation: Land Acquisition	2003 Actual		2004 Estimate		Uncontr. and Rel. Changes		Program Changes		2005 Request	
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount
<u>Object Class</u>										
11 Personnel compensation										
11.1 Full-time permanent	98	5,970	111	7,087			+66	-18	-853	93
11.3 Other than full-time permanent	-	171		203			+2		-25	180
11.5 Other personnel compensation	-	189		224			+2		-27	199
Total Personnel Compensation	98	6,330	111	7,514			+70	-18	-905	93
<u>Other Objects</u>										
12.1 Civilian personnel benefits	-	1,659		1,969					-218	1,751
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons	-	380		386					+5	391
22.0 Transportation of things	-	116		118					+1	119
23.2 Rental payments to others	-	1		1						1
23.3 Communications, utilities & miscellaneous charges	-	54		55					+1	56
24.0 Printing and reproduction	-	8		8						8
25.2 Other services	-	3,592		3,646		+81			-34	3,693
25.3 Purchase of goods and services from Gov't. accounts	-	0		0					+1,620	1,620
25.7 Operation and maintenance of equipment	-	33		33					+1	34
26.0 Supplies and materials	-	225		228					+3	231
31.0 Equipment	-	439		446					+5	451
32.0 Land and structures	-	60,056		23,718					+6,289	30,007
Total Requirements	98	72,893	111	38,122			+151	-18	+6,768	93

Standard Form 300

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
LAND ACQUISITION

Program and Financing (in thousands of dollars)			
Identification code 14-5020-0-2-303	2003 actual	2004 est.	2005 est.
Obligations by program activity:			
Direct program:			
00.01 Acquisition management	9,119	13,297	10,321
00.02 Emergencies and hardships	2,289	1,011	1,901
00.03 Exchanges	903	1,139	1,014
00.04 Inholdings	1,990	1,404	2,390
00.05 Federal refuges	55,844	56,479	40,097
00.10 Total, direct program	70,145	73,330	55,723
09.00 Reimbursable program	747	5,220	0
10.00 Total new obligations	70,892	78,550	55,723
Budgetary resources available for obligation:			
21.40 Unobligated balance carried forward, start of year	54,609	58,738	35,463
22.00 New budget authority (gross)	74,345	55,275	45,041
22.10 Resources available from recoveries of prior year obligations	676	0	0
22.21 Unobligated balance transferred to other accounts [14-1125]		0	0
23.90 Total budgetary resources available for obligation	129,630	114,013	80,504
23.95 Total new obligations (-)	-70,892	-78,550	-55,723
24.40 Unobligated balance carried forward, end of year	58,738	35,463	24,781
New budget authority (gross), detail:			
Discretionary:			
40.20 Appropriation (special fund)	73,370	43,628	45,041
40.35 Appropriation permanently reduced [14-5005]	-477	-538	0
41.00 Current year authority transferred to other accounts [14-2303]	0	-4,968	0
42.00 Current year authority transferred from other accounts [14-1125]	1,062	11,353	0
43.00 Appropriation (total)	73,955	49,475	45,041
Spending authority from offsetting collections:			
Discretionary:			
68.00 Offsetting collections (cash)	-3,066	5,800	0
68.10 Change in uncollected customer payments from Federal sources	3,456	0	0
68.90 Spending authority from offsetting collections (total)	390	5,800	0
70.00 Total new budget authority (gross)	74,345	55,275	45,041

LAND ACQUISITION

Program and Financing (in thousands of dollars)			
Identification code 14-5020-0-2-303	2003 actual	2004 est.	2005 est.
<u>Change in obligated balances:</u>			
72.40 Obligated balance, start of year	52,361	24,026	33,947
73.10 Total new obligations	70,892	78,550	55,723
73.20 Total outlays, gross (-)	-95,095	-68,629	-52,575
73.45 Recoveries of prior year obligations	-676	0	0
74.00 Change in uncollected customer payments from Federal sources	-3,456	0	0
74.40 Obligated balance, end of year	24,026	33,947	37,095
<u>Outlays, (gross) detail:</u>			
86.90 Outlays from new discretionary authority	33,017	24,874	20,268
86.93 Outlays from discretionary balances	62,079	43,755	32,307
87.00 Total outlays (gross)	95,095	68,629	52,575
<u>Offsets:</u>			
Against gross budget authority and outlays: Offsetting collections (cash) from:			
88.00 Federal sources	-3,066	5,800	0
88.95 Change in uncollected customer payments from Federal sources	3,456	0	0
<u>Net budget authority and outlays:</u>			
89.00 Budget authority	73,955	49,475	45,041
90.00 Outlays	98,161	62,829	52,575

Object classification (in thousands of dollars)			
Identification code 14-5020-0-2-303	2003 actual	2004 est.	2005 est.
<u>Direct obligations:</u>			
Personnel compensation:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	5,970	7,087	6,300
11.3 Other than full-time permanent	171	203	180
11.5 Other personnel compensation	189	224	199
11.9 Total personnel compensation	6,330	7,514	6,679
12.1 Civilian personnel benefits	1,659	1,969	1,751
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons	380	386	391
22.0 Transportation of things	116	118	119
23.2 Rental payments to others	1	1	1
23.3 Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	54	55	56
24.0 Printing and reproduction	8	8	8
25.2 Other services	3,592	3,646	3,693
25.3 Purchases of goods and services from Government accounts			1,620
25.7 Operation and maintenance of equipment	33	33	34
26.0 Supplies and materials	225	228	231
31.0 Equipment	439	446	451
32.0 Land and structures	57,309	58,926	40,689

LAND ACQUISITION

99.0 Subtotal, direct obligations	70,146	73,330	55,723
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Object classification (in thousands of dollars)			
Identification code 14-5020-0-2-303	2003 actual	2004 est.	2005 est.
Reimbursable obligations:			
Personnel compensation:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	0	0	0
11.3 Other than full-time permanent	0	0	0
11.5 Other personnel compensation	0	0	0
11.9 Total personnel compensation	0	0	0
12.1 Civilian personnel benefits	0	0	0
21.0 Travel & transportation of people	10	10	0
23.3 Communications, utilities & miscellaneous charges	0	0	0
25.2 Other services	3	3	0
25.3 Purchases of goods and services from government accounts	5	5	0
32.0 Land and structures	728	5,202	0
99.0 Subtotal, reimbursable obligations	746	5,220	0
99.9 Total new obligations	70,892	78,550	55,723

Personnel Summary			
Identification code 14-5020-0-2-303	2003 actual	2004 est.	2005 est.
Direct:			
Total compensable workyears:			
1001 Full-time equivalent employment	98	111	93
Average salary per direct FTE	81,520	85,433	90,645
Reimbursable:			
Total compensable workyears:			
2001 Full-time equivalent employment		0	0
Average salary per reimbursable FTE		0	0

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