

Recreation Fee Demonstration Program

Appropriations Language

This activity does not require appropriations language, since there is permanent authority to collect receipts through December 31, 2005 and obligate funds through September 30, 2008.

Authorizing Statutes

The FY 1996 Omnibus Appropriations Act (P.L. 104-134, section 315, 110 Stat. 1321-200), as amended by *The FY 1997 Omnibus Appropriations Act* (P.L. 104-208, section 319, 110 Stat. 3009), *The FY 1997 Supplemental Appropriations* (P.L. 105-18, section 5001), *The FY 1998 Interior Appropriations Act* (P.L. 105-83, section 320 and 321), *The FY 1999 Interior Appropriations Act* (105-277, section 316 and 327), *The FY 2000 Omnibus Appropriations Act* (P.L. 106-113, section 315), *The FY 2001 Department of Interior and Related Agencies Appropriation Act* (P.L. 106-291), *The Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002* (P.L. 107-63, section 312) and *The Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2004* (P.L. 108-108, section 332). The Acts provide that participating stations may deposit fees to a separate account in order to increase the quality of the visitor experience and enhance the protection of resources - for repair and maintenance, interpretation, signage, habitat or facility enhancement, resource preservation, costs of fee collection, and law enforcement related to public use.

Recreation Fee Demonstration Program		2003 Actual	2004 Enacted	Uncontrollable & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	2005 Budget Request	Change from 2004(+/-)
Entrance and User Fees	\$(000)	3,768	4,000	-	-	4,200	200
	FTE	32	33	-	-	33	-
Total, Recreation Fee Demonstration Program	\$(000)	3,768	4,000	-	-	4,200	200
	FTE	32	33	-	-	33	-

2005 Program Overview

The Recreation Fee Demonstration program was authorized by the *FY 1996 Omnibus Appropriations Act*, as amended, which directs that entrance and user fees be retained, with at least 80 percent returned to the specific site of collection to offset program costs and enhance visitor facilities and programs. Prior to this program, the Refuge Recreation Fee program (authorized by the *Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986*) consisted of 65 refuges collecting \$2,200,000 per year in entrance and recreation user fees. Participating refuges continuing in the original program receive 30 percent of the funds collected. The remaining 70 percent is deposited in the Migratory Bird Conservation Account for land acquisition. The Service initiated its Recreational Fee Demonstration Program with 42 approved sites in November 1996. The Department of the Interior supports a permanent program.

2003 Program Performance Accomplishments

By the end of FY 2003, there were 109 approved sites (108 National Wildlife Refuges and one National Fish Hatchery). In FY 2003, participating stations collected \$3,767,000 and obligated \$3,679,000 of their fee money on costs of collection, visitor services improvements, and deferred maintenance. Listed below are a few examples of projects accomplished at specific refuge sites using fee demonstration funds:

- At Kilauea Point NWR, HI, the refuge used fee demonstration dollars to improve accessibility by replacing dirt walkways with an eight-foot wide concrete walkway. The refuge also purchased eight new wildlife viewing scopes, four accessible to those with disabilities.
- Aransas NWR, TX, used its collections to host many special events including its third annual Aransas National Wildlife Refuge Celebration (October 12), its Refuge Centennial Event (March 15), and a Fishing Derby for children (June 7). These successful events drew many visitors and featured some big names in conservation, including Jane Goodall, who spoke at the Centennial event.
- Even though our first refuge, Pelican Island NWR (FL), is not in the fee demonstration program, the program helped with visitor services improvements for Pelican Island NWR's Centennial celebration. Since the Southeast Region holds onto 20% of the collections for grants, Pelican Island NWR received some grant monies for a visitor information kiosk and spotting scopes that were built and installed in time for the March 2003 celebration.
- Kodiak NWR (AK) was able to complete deferred maintenance projects on several cabins thanks to its fee demonstration collections. These repairs included replacing wheelchair ramps, broken doors, outhouses, and even an entire cabin. Fee demonstration monies also allowed the refuge to complete some annual maintenance projects such as cabin painting, replacing oil heaters with propane stoves, and attending to other immediate maintenance needs.

2004 Planned Program Performance

Collection authority under the program will continue through December 31, 2005, with spending authority through FY 2008. Refuges not included in the program continue to generate revenue for refuge operations and land acquisition under the Emergency Wetlands Resource Act of 1986. The multi-agency Recreation Fee Demonstration Program also includes the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and USDA Forest Service; all four bureaus continue to work together to produce legislation that will make this program permanent. The following table details the current fee programs at 108 National Wildlife Refuges and one National Fish Hatchery.

Station Name	State	Approved Activity	Approved
Anahauc NWR	TX	New entrance fee, modified hunt fee	Spring 1997
Aransas NWR	TX	New entrance fee, provide refuge specific annual pass, modified hunt fee	Winter 96-97
Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee NWR	FL	Modified entrance fee, refuge specific annual pass	Winter 96-97
Back Bay NWR	VA	Modified entrance fee, refuge specific annual pass	Winter 96-97
Balcones Canyonlands NWR	TX	New hunter user fee	Spring 1997
Bald Knob NWR	AR	New quota deer hunt fee	4/30/98
Bayou Cocodrie NWR	LA	New deer hunt fee	Spring 1997
Big Branch Marsh NWR	LA	Duck hunt	4/12/01

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Station Name	State	Approved Activity	Approved
Big Oaks NWR	IN	Entrance fee	8/3/2000
Black Bayou NWR	LA	New boat launch fee	Spring 1997
Blackwater NWR	MD	Modified entrance fee, refuge specific annual pass, big game hunt application fee	Winter 96-97, (hunt fee 4/21/98)
Bombay Hook NWR	DE	Modified entrance fee, refuge specific annual pass, modify deer hunt by increasing fee	Winter 96-97
Bond Swamp NWR	GA	New white-tailed deer and feral hog hunts	4/20/1999
Bosque del Apache NWR	NM	Modified entrance fee, refuge specific annual pass, new fee schedule, guided refuge tours	Fall 1996
Brazoria NWR	TX	New user fee for fishing area	Spring 1997
Buenos Aires NWR	AZ	New entrance fee, provide refuge specific annual pass, new user fee for interpretive tours, group tours and rental fees for environmental education building	Spring 1997
Buffalo Lake NWR	TX	Entrance fees	July 16,2003
Cache River NWR	AR	New quota deer hunts	4/21/1998
Cat Island NWR	LA	Deer hunts; turkey hunts quota hunt registration fee for special hunts	6/28/02 6/27/2003
Chincoteague NWR	VA	Modified entrance fee, refuge specific annual pass, modify hunt fee, off-road vehicle permits	Winter 96-97; (off-road 4/21/1998)
Cibola NWR	AZ	Waterfowl hunt	6/7/1999
Columbia NWR	WA	New honor camping fee at Soda Lake, modified waterfowl hunt program by adding application fee and adding option of seasonal permit	
Crab Orchard NWR	IL	New fees for all of the following: boat launch, campgrounds, fishing tournaments. Deposit concession revenue into demonstration project (deer hunt fee, fall 1996), modified entrance fee by instituting refuge annual vehicle sticker	Winter 96-97
Deep Fork NWR	OK	New deer hunt fee	Fall 1996
Deer Flat NWR	ID	New fee for special youth activities building, honor boat launch/parking	Spring 1997
Desert NWR Complex	NV	Entrance fee, camping fee	March 2002
DeSoto NWR	IA	Modified entrance fee, refuge specific annual pass	Winter 96-97
Dungeness NWR	WA	Modified entrance fee, refuge specific annual pass, new fee schedule	Winter 96-97
Eastern Neck NWR	MD	Modified deer hunt	Fall 1996

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Station Name	State	Approved Activity	Approved
Eastern Shore of Virginia NWR	VA	Deer hunts and Conference Facility fees	March 2002
Eastern Virginia Rivers NWR Complex	VA	Deer hunts	10/11/2002
Edwin B. Forsythe NWR	NJ	Modified entrance fee, refuge specific annual pass	Winter 96-97
Elizabeth A. Morton NWR (Includes Long Island NWR Complex)	NY	New self-issue entrance fee	Spring 1997
Eufaula NWR	GA	Modified hunt program by expanding waterfowl hunt program from one to three units and increase fee	Spring 1997
Felsenthal NWR	AR	Modified hunt program by increasing number of hunt days, initiate special event fee	Spring 1997
Fort Niobrara NWR	NE	New access fee for canoeing and tubing on the Niobrara river	January 1998
Gavins Point NFH	SD	New entrance fee for aquarium only	Spring 1997
Great Bay NWR	NH	New deer hunt fee	Fall 1996
Great Dismal Swamp NWR	VA	Modified big game hunt by adding bear and archery deer hunting	4/21/1998
Great Swamp NWR	NJ	Modified big game hunt to expand hunting opportunities	4/21/1998
Hatchie NWR	TN	Deer hunt	4/19/2002
Havasu NWR	AZ	Waterfowl hunt	7/16/2003
Hobe Sound NWR	FL	Modified entrance fee, refuge specific annual pass	Winter 96-97
Holla Bend NWR	AR	Modified entrance fee, refuge specific annual pass	Winter 96-97
Horicon NWR	WI	Multi-purpose room fee, deer hunts at Horicon NWR and Fox River NWR	6/28/2002
Humboldt Bay NWR	CA	Modified waterfowl hunt program by adding application fee and adding option of seasonal permit	Spring 1997
Iroquois NWR	NY	Modified waterfowl and spring turkey hunts	6/7/1999 2/4/2000
J.N. "Ding" Darling NWR	FL	Modified entrance fee, refuge specific annual pass	Winter 96-97
Kenai NWR	AK	Modified campground fees - price reduction for walk-in sites	3/31/1999
Kilauea Point NWR	HI	Establish honor entrance fee, establish annual resident refuge specific pass	Fall 1996
Klamath Basin Complex	CA	New entrance fee, initiate photo blind fee, modified waterfowl hunt program by charging an application fee, add permit for pheasant hunt	Spring 1997

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Station Name	State	Approved Activity	Approved
Kodiak NWR	AK	Modified cabin fees - peak pricing schedule	3/31/1999
Laguna Atascosa NWR	TX	Modified entrance fee, refuge specific annual pass, quota archery and rifle deer and hog hunt	Winter 96-97
Lake Ophelia NWR Complex	LA	Modified fee programs, hunting and fishing quota hunt registration fee for special hunts	4/21/1998 6/27/2003
Lake Woodruff NWR	FL	Modified deer and feral hog hunting seasons	4/20/1999
Little River NWR	OK	Turkey hunt and deer hunt	10/3/2001
Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR	TX	New archery deer hunt	3/31/1999
Lower Suwanee NWR	FL	Deer hunt	6/28/2002
Mason Neck	VA	New entrance fee for Woodbridge unit	January 1998
Mattamuskeet NWR	NC	Modified hunt program by increasing waterfowl hunt days and increasing fees, lodge usage fees	Spring 1997 (modified 7/5/2000)
McFaddin NWR	TX	Waterfowl hunt	10/3/2001
Merritt Island NWR	FL	Waterfowl hunt	6/28/2002
Mid-Columbia NWR (Includes: Umatilla NWR)	OR	Modified waterfowl hunt program by adding application fee and adding option of seasonal permit	Spring 1997
Midway Atoll NWR	MQ	New daily access fee	Spring 1997
Mingo NWR	MO	Modified entrance fee, refuge specific annual pass	Winter 96-97
Minnesota Valley NWR	MN	New meeting room fee	Spring 1997
Mississippi WMD (Includes: Louisiana WMD & North LA Refuges)	MS	New deer and small game hunting fees	Spring 1997
Modoc NWR	CA	Modified waterfowl hunt program by adding application fee and adding option of seasonal permit	Spring 1997
National Bison Range	MT	New fees for 2 auto tour routes, special event fees and teacher workshops	Fall 1996
National Elk Refuge	WY	New fee for weekly elk hunt, as well as interpretive tours and special events.	Spring 1997
Nisqually NWR	WA	Modified entrance fee, refuge specific annual pass, new fee schedule	Winter 96-97
Noxubee NWR	MS	Reinstatement of waterfowl and modified deer hunts	4/20/1999
Okefenokee NWR	GA	Modified entrance fee, refuge specific annual pass, modify canoe trail user fee, raise fee	Winter 96-97
Ottawa NWR	OH	New deer hunt fee	Spring 1997

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Station Name	State	Approved Activity	Approved
Parker River NWR	MA	Modified entrance fee, refuge specific annual pass	Winter 96-97
Pee Dee NWR	NC	Modified hunt program by increasing number of days and expand hunt area	Spring 1997
Piedmont NWR	GA	Modified hunt program by increasing number of days	Spring 1997
Pocosin Lakes NWR	NC	Modified hunt program by increasing number of days	Spring 1997
Prime Hook NWR	DE	New fees for fishing and canoeing access. Modified deer and waterfowl hunt fee	Spring 1997
Rachel Carson NWR	ME	New hunt fees	Fall 1996
Reelfoot NWRC (Reelfoot NWR, Lower Hatchie NWR, Chickasaw NWR)	TN	Turkey hunts at all three refuges, deer hunt at Reelfoot NWR	4/12/2001
Ridgefield NWR	WA	Modified waterfowl hunt program by adding application fee and adding option of seasonal permit	Spring 1997
Sachuest Point NWR	RI	Evening vehicle access/fishing permits	March 2002
Sacramento NWR	CA	New honor entrance fee program, provide refuge specific annual pass and photo blind fee	Spring 1997
Salt Plains NWR	OK	Deer hunt	7/16/2003
San Andres NWR	NM	Big game hunt	2/21/2002
San Bernard NWR	TX	Modified waterfowl hunt program	Spring 1997
Saint Catherine Creek NWR	MS	New deer hunt fee	Spring 1997
Saint Marks NWR	FL	Modified entrance fee, refuge specific annual pass, upland and big game quota hunt	Winter 96-97
Saint Vincent NWR	FL	Modified hunt program by increasing fee for Sambar deer hunt	Spring 1997
Santa Ana	TX	New Entrance Fee	3/31/1999
Seedskaadee NWR	WY	New fees for commercial fishing outfitters and guides, joint project with BLM	Spring 1997
Sequoyah NWR	OK	New white-tailed deer hunt	Fall 1996
Sevilleta NWR	NM	Conference facility fee	4/25/2003
Shiawassee NWR	MI	Modified deer hunt fee, formerly managed by the State	Spring 1997
Sullys Hill National Game Preserve (Managed under Devils Lake WMD)	ND	New entrance fee and refuge specific annual pass, special event user fee	Spring 1997 (special event 4/21/1998)

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Station Name	State	Approved Activity	Approved
Supawna Meadows NWR	NJ	Modified White-tailed Deer Hunt	6/7/1999
Target Rock NWR (Long Island NWR Complex)	NY	Reactivate entrance fee program	Spring 1997
Tennessee NWR	TN	Modified hunt program by restructuring, initiated guided tour fee	Spring 1997
Tensas River NWR	LA	New ATV permits fee, hunt fees	4/21/1998
Trinity River NWR	TX	Waterfowl hunt	2/21/2002
Turnbull NWR	WA	Modified entrance fee, refuge specific annual pass	Winter 96-97
Union Slough NWR	IA	New deer hunt fee	Fall 1996
Upper Mississippi River Wildlife & Fish Refuge/Savanna District	IL	Modified waterfowl hunt	Spring 1997
Walkill River NWR	NJ/NY	Deer hunts, turkey hunts, waterfowl hunts	6/17/2002
Washita NWR	OK	Goose hunt and deer hunt	3/8/2001
White River NWR	AR	Modified hunt program by increasing number of days	Spring 1997
Willapa NWR	WA	New honor boat launching and vehicle parking fees near headquarters. Modified waterfowl hunt program by adding application fee and adding option of seasonal permit	Spring 1997
Yazoo NWR	MS	New entrance fee for the complex of refuges	Spring 1997

Program Performance Summary

The Recreation Fee Demonstration Program is not associated with one particular goal; however, funding for the program is used for visitor services and maintenance needs, including resource protection, and costs of collection on participating refuges. Therefore, the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program directly supports the DOI Recreation Goal to provide for a quality recreation experience, including access, and enjoyment of natural and cultural resources on DOI managed and partnered lands and waters.

Recreational Fee Program
(in thousand of dollars)

	<u>2003</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>2004</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2005</u> <u>Estimate</u>
Total Fees Collected	3,768	4,000	4,200
Unobligated Balance/Recoveries	3,864	3,953	3,980
<i>Projects Approved for Use of Fees:</i>			
<i>Number of Approved Projects</i>	380	400	400
<i>Dollar Amount of Approved Projects</i>	3,679	3,973	4,129
Obligations by Type of Project:			
Visitor Services	1,238	1,338	1,389
Resource Protection	278	300	312
Health and Safety Maintenance:	1,253	1,353	1,406
Facilities Deferred Maintenance	[503]	[543]	[565]
Facilities Capital Improvement	[305]	[329]	[342]
Facilities Routine Annual Maint.	[445]	[481]	[499]
Collection Costs	593	640	666
Other	317	342	356
Total Obligations	3,679	3,973	4,129
End of Year Unobligated Balance	3,953	3,980	4,051
Total FWS Expenditures (Outlays)	3,651	3,953	4,160

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
RECREATIONAL FEE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM**

Program and Financing (in thousands of dollars)

Identification code 14-5252-0-2-303	2003 Actual	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate
01.99 Balance, start of year	0	0	0
Receipts			
02.20 Receipts: Recreational Fee Demonstration Program	3,768	4,000	4,200
04.00 Total: Balances and collections	3,768	4,000	4,200
05.00 Appropriation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Recreational Fee Demonstration Program (-)	-3,768	-4,000	-4,200
07.99 Balance, end of year	0	0	0

Identification code 14-5252-0-2-303	2003 Actual	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate
Obligations by Program Activity			
00.01 Recreational Fee Demonstration Program	3,679	3,973	4,129
10.00 Total obligations	3,679	3,973	4,129
Budgetary Resources Available for Obligation			
21.40 Unobligated balance available, start of year	3,795	3,953	3,980
22.00 New Budget authority (gross)	3,768	4,000	4,200
22.10 Resources available from recoveries of prior year obligations	69	0	0
23.90 Total budgetary resources available for obligation	7,632	7,953	8,180
23.95 New obligations (-)	-3,679	-3,973	-4,129
24.40 Unobligated balance available, end of year	3,953	3,980	4,051
New Budget Authority (gross), Detail			
Permanent authority: Appropriations:			
60.20 Appropriation (special fund, indefinite)	3,768	4,000	4,200
70.00 Total new B.A. (gross)	3,768	4,000	4,200
Change in Unpaid Obligations			
Unpaid obligations, start of year:			
72.40 Obligated balance, start of year	715	674	693
73.10 New obligations	3,679	3,973	4,129
73.20 Total outlays, gross (-)	-3,651	-3,954	-4,160
73.45 Adjustments in unexpired accounts (-)	-69	0	0
Unpaid obligations, end of year:			
74.40 Obligated balance, end of year	674	693	662

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Identification code 14-5252-0-2-303	2003 Actual	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate
Outlays, (gross) Detail			
86.97 Outlays from new mandatory authority	3,014	3,200	3,360
86.98 Outlays from mandatory balances	637	754	800
87.00 Total outlays (gross)	3,651	3,954	4,160
Net Budget Authority and Outlays			
89.00 Budget authority	3,767	4,000	4,200
90.00 Outlays	3,651	3,953	4,160

Object Classification (in thousands of dollars)	2003 Actual	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate
Direct Obligations			
11.1 Full-time permanent	463	486	510
11.3 Other than full-time permanent	485	507	530
11.5 Other personnel compensation	247	258	270
11.8 Special personnel services payments	23		
11.9 Total personnel compensation	1,218	1,251	1,310
12.1 Civilian personnel benefits	257	269	281
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons	148	150	152
22.0 Transportation of things	7	7	7
23.3 Communications, utilities, and misc. charges	114	137	140
24.0 Printing and reproduction	239	287	293
25.2 Other services	629	692	699
25.3 Purchases of goods and services from Gov't Accounts	49	50	51
25.4 Operation and maintenance of facilities	19	23	28
25.6 Medical care	4	4	4
25.7 Operation and maintenance of equipment	63	64	65
25.8 Subsistence and support of persons	16	16	16
26.0 Supplies and materials	455	501	551
31.0 Equipment	137	192	196
32.0 Land and structures	301	307	313
41.1 Local, state, and foreign cooperative agreements	22	22	22
42.1 Insurance claims	0	0	0
99.95 Below reporting threshold	1	1	1
99.99 Total new obligations	3,679	3,973	4,129

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Personnel Summary

Identification code 14-5252-0-2-303	2003 Actual	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate
Direct: Total compensable workyears: 1001 Full-time equivalent employment	32	33	33
Average salary per FTE	38,063	40,355	42,258

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