

## Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund

### Appropriations Language

For expenses necessary to carry out the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, as amended[,] (16 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.), [\$3,792,000]\$3,786,000, to remain available until expended. (Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012.)

### Authorizing Statutes

**Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Improvement Act of 2006**, (16 U.S.C. 6101). For expenses necessary to carry out the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Improvement Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.). Authorizes a competitive grants program for the conservation of Neotropical migratory birds in the United States, Latin America, Canada and the Caribbean.

**Appropriation: Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund**

	2011 Actual	2012 Enacted	2013			Change from 2012 (+/-)
			Fixed Costs and Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (\$000)	3,992	3,786	0	0	3,786	0
FTE	1	1	0	0	1	0

**Justification of Program Changes for Neotropical Migratory Bird Fund**

The 2013 budget request for Neotropical Migratory Bird Fund is \$3,786,000 and 1 FTE, with no net program change from the 2012 Enacted.

**Program Overview**

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) program provides matching grants to partners throughout the Western Hemisphere to promote the conservation of Neotropical migratory birds in the United States, Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Over 350 species of Neotropical migratory birds breed in the United States and Canada and winter in Latin America, including sandpipers, hawks, thrushes, warblers and sparrows. The populations of many of these birds are declining, and several species are protected as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Seventeen of these migratory birds are targeted by the Service as focal species and 62 are on the Service’s list of birds of conservation concern. Ten of the 20 birds on Audubon's "List of the Top 20 Birds in Decline" are Neotropical migrants that benefit from grants provided through the NMBCA. Essential conservation actions funded through this program are key to keeping these species from becoming listed under the Endangered Species Act.



*Reforestation trees in Sierra de Zongolica, Mexico.*

A primary purpose of the NMBCA is to perpetuate healthy populations of these birds by catalyzing migratory bird conservation projects that otherwise would not take place. The program serves as an important keystone funding source, leveraging over three dollars of non-federal match for every federal grant dollar invested. NMBCA funds are directed to priority bird conservation concerns and areas. Among other factors, the NMBCA program's grant selection criteria considers whether a proposed project addresses Neotropical migrants identified as a conservation priority, including the Service's focal species priority list; whether a proposed project

addresses conservation priorities of other international bird conservation plans such as Partners in Flight; and whether the proposal represents coordination among public and private organizations, such as through a Migratory Bird Joint Venture. The projects supported by this program respond to the full range of conservation activities needed to protect and conserve Neotropical migratory bird populations, including securing, restoring, and managing wintering, migrating, and breeding habitat; conducting law enforcement, providing community outreach and education; and conducting bird population research and monitoring. For example, NMBCA grants supported reforestation efforts in Mexico and Peru where several hundred thousand saplings were planted to help restore thousands of acres of critical Neotropical migratory bird habitat. By law, at least 75 percent of the funds available each year must go to projects in

Latin America, the Caribbean, and Canada, with the remaining 25 percent available for projects in the United States. In Latin America and the Caribbean, resources for migratory bird conservation are scarce and the NMBCA program provides critical financial resource for our partners working to conserve migratory birds on their migrating and wintering grounds.

Through 2011, conservation partners have received more than \$39 million in NMBCA grant funds in support of 367 projects in 36 countries and 48 U.S. States and territories across the Western Hemisphere. Non-federal partners have contributed approximately \$152 million in matching funds to these projects. All bird groups have benefited, including songbirds, raptors, shorebirds, and waterfowl.

### 2013 Program Performance

In 2013 the NMBCA grant program expects to fund approximately 30 new projects with \$3.786 million in funds. These dollars will help our partners protect approximately 94,000 acres of Neotropical bird habitat and provide critical support for research and monitoring and community outreach and education across the Western Hemisphere. All of these activities are critical to the long-term conservation of Neotropical birds and help to sustain bird populations that migrate outside of the US every year. Most NMBCA projects support complementary activities, such as habitat protection, monitoring, and education, in the same area. Additionally, the Service will continue to implement the pilot program started in 2012, per the recommendation of the NMBCA Advisory Group, to target a small portion of funding to a suite of particularly threatened species and habitats such as the cerulean warbler, golden-cheeked warbler, red knot, hudsonian godwit, and threatened grassland bird species. The pilot program seeks to contribute to partnership efforts to significantly and measurably improve the populations of these and associated species over the next 5-10 years. Additionally, this pilot program seeks to fund research into identifying the most important limiting factors to Neotropical migratory bird species suffering rapid population declines.



*Trees for planting migratory bird habitat in the Peruvian Andes.*

Projects funded through NMBCA further two Fish and Wildlife Service measurable outcomes that sustain biological communities and contribute to the percent of habitat needs met to achieve healthy and sustainable levels of migratory birds (FWS Ops Plan CSF 6.4). These measures are the number of acres restored/enhanced of habitat in U.S./Mexico/Latin America through NMBCA and the number of acres of habitat protected/secured in U.S./Mexico/Latin America through partnerships and networked lands using NMBCA. These measures contribute to Interior Department strategies: 1) to sustain wildlife species by protecting and recovering wildlife in cooperation with partners and 2) to enhance the enjoyment and appreciation of our natural heritage. Additionally, the program's actions contribute to the success of the Department and Service's goal that tracks the number of international species of management concern whose status has been improved in cooperation with affected countries.

## NMBCF - Combined Performance Change and Overview Table

Performance Goal	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Plan	2013 PB	Change from 2012 Plan to 2013 PB	Long Term Target 2016
CSF 6.4 Percent of habitat needs met to achieve healthy and sustainable levels of migratory birds - cumulative	51.5% (230,334,330 of 447,161,217)	52.3% (233,903,136 of 447,209,213)	57.2% (296,983,282 of 519,506,615)	49.6% (257,569,902 of 519,655,943)	50.1% (260,516,248 of 519,665,916)	51.9% (270,000,000 of 520,000,000)	+1.80%	49.4% (308,530,460 of 624,104,643)
6.4.3 # of acres restored/enhanced of habitat in U.S./ Mexico/ Latin America through NMBCA	17,327	36,999	3,464	28,313	5,062	38,141	+33,079	9,365
6.4.4 # of acres protected/secured of habitat in U.S./ Mexico/ Latin America through partnerships and networked lands using NMBCA	79,755	497,254	176,282	50,495	164,887	701,761	+536,874	114,803
Comments	Acres of habitat reported as "restored or enhanced" or "protected or secured" are the result of projects funded from several years previous that were completed during a particular fiscal year. The change in performance from 2008 to 2009, 10, 11, 12 and 2013 demonstrates the variability, inherent in multi-year grants, as to when they are proposed/funded and when they are reported as completed. This year-to-year variability is responsible for the fluctuation in reported acreages that are associated with a given fiscal year.							

Standard Form 300

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION FUND

Program and financing (in millions of dollars)	2011	2012	2013
Identification code 14-1696-0-302	Actual	Estimate	Estimate
<b><u>Obligations by program activity:</u></b>			
0001 Neotropical Migratory Bird	4	4	4
0900 Total obligations	4	4	4
<b><u>Budgetary Resources:</u></b>			
1100 Appropriation, discretionary	4	4	4
1930 Total budgetary resources available	4	4	4
<b><u>Change in obligated balance:</u></b>			
3000 Obligated balance, start of year	8	6	5
3030 Obligations incurred	4	4	4
3040 Total outlays, gross (-)	-6	-5	-5
3090 Unpaid obligations, end of year	6	5	4
<b><u>Budgetary authority and outlays, net:</u></b>			
4000 Budgetary authority, gross	4	4	4
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	1	1	1
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	5	4	4
4020 Total outlays (gross)	6	5	5
4180 Budget authority, net	4	4	4
4190 Outlays, net	6	5	5
<b><u>Direct Obligations:</u></b>			
41.0 Grants, subsidies, and contributions	4	4	4
99.9 Total obligations	4	4	4
<b>Personnel Summary</b>			
1001 Civilian full-time equivalent employment	1	1	1

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