

Update to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service endangered species program FY 2021 request

Last year, Congress provided a 5.6% increase in funding for the fiscal year 2020 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) endangered species program. This was a crucial step in the right direction, but it fell short of what is required to meet the needs of Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed species. Our request for fiscal year (FY) 2021 is **\$531.3 million dollars**, distributed across five programs, to make up for lost ground and put species on the path to recovery.

For FY 2021, our funding request increases by ~\$45 million relative to FY 2020. The increase puts Congress back on track to meet the funding need identified in our 2019 analysis for the amount FWS needs to implement the ESA as intended. This includes the \$41 million gap relative to last year’s increase, plus additional funding allocated by Congress for candidate conservation under the Conservation and Restoration program in FY 2020.

Below, we provide a breakdown of the FY 2021 distribution by program. This breakdown includes a 4-year track to achieve the original funding target by 2025. The funding breakdown is as follows:

Program	FY20 Ask Distribution	FY21 Ask Distribution	FY20	DIF FY20 Enacted	4 Yr Round Up
Listing	\$51 M	\$55 M	\$20.3 M	\$34.7 M	\$9 M
Recovery	\$196.7 M	\$213 M	\$103 M	\$110 M	\$28 M
Planning and Consultation	\$130.05 M	\$141 M	\$109 M	\$32 M	\$8 M
Conservation and Restoration	CC: \$8.4 M	CC: \$13.3 M	CC: \$13.3 M	\$0 M	\$0 M
CESCF	\$100 M	\$109 M	\$54.5 M	\$54.5 M	\$14 M
Total	\$486 M	\$531.3 M	\$300.1 M	\$ 231.2 M	\$59 M

With the recent international science and policy report highlighting the global extinction crisis¹, it is clear that we must act now to prevent further loss of our biodiversity². The ESA is the strongest wildlife conservation law in the world, and the best tool for protecting our imperiled wildlife. When the funding needs of the ESA are not met, species bear the burden and slip further from recovery. Fully funding FWS to carry out the ESA as Congress intended will allow the landmark law to realize its full potential and fulfill its obligation to conserve imperiled species.

¹ Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). 2019. *Summary for policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*. IPBES, Bonn, Germany.

² Malcom et al. 2019. *Solve the biodiversity crisis with funding*. Science.