

MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND  
RELATED AGENCIES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30,  
2004, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

OCTOBER 28, 2003.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, from the committee of conference,  
submitted the following

CONFERENCE REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 2691]

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2691) “making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes”, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate, and agree to the same with an amendment, as follows:

In lieu of the matter stricken and inserted by said amendment, insert:

*That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes, namely:*

**TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

**MANAGEMENT OF LANDS AND RESOURCES**

*For necessary expenses for protection, use, improvement, development, disposal, cadastral surveying, classification, acquisition of easements and other interests in lands, and performance of other functions, including maintenance of facilities, as authorized by law, in the management of lands and their resources under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, including the general administration of the Bureau, and assessment of mineral potential of public lands pursuant to Public Law 96-487 (16 U.S.C. 3150(a)),*

(Dollars in thousands)

Project	Description	Disposition
Servicewide .....	Initial inspections for recently acquired dams .....	1,291
Sevilleta NWR, NM .....	Laboratory construction .....	1,000
Silvio O. Conte NWR, VT .....	Nulhegan Div. visitor contact station, office & maintenance buildings [p/d].	450
Visitor Contact Facilities .....	Servicewide .....	3,000
White Sulphur Springs NFH, WV .....	Equipment upgrades .....	50
Winthrop NFH, WA .....	Seismic Safety Rehabilitation of Four Buildings—Phase I [p/d].	130
Wolf Creek NFH, KY .....	Visitors Center [cc] .....	2,100
World Birding Ctr., TX .....	Construction .....	1,300
Subtotal, Line Item Construction .....	.....	49,234
Nationwide Engineering Services: .....	.....	.....
Cost Allocation Methodology .....	.....	3,058
Environmental Compliance .....	.....	1,650
Other, non-project specific Nationwide Engineering Services. ....	.....	6,262
Seismic Safety Program .....	.....	200
Waste Prevention, Recycling Environmental Mgmt ....	.....	150
Subtotal, Nationwide Engineering Services .....	.....	11,320
Total .....	.....	60,554

The managers agree to the following:

1. Language is included in the resource management account and the departmental management account concerning the replacement of survey aircraft.

2. The funding provided for equipment at the Alaska Maritime NWR, AK, completes the Service's commitment for construction of this project.

3. The funding provided for cabins, trails, and campgrounds at the Kenai NWR, AK, is the full amount needed for this project.

4. The funding provided for laboratory expansion and other improvements at the Northeast Fishery Center Complex, PA, is the full amount needed for these projects.

5. No funding is provided for a master plan and environmental assessment at the Patuxent Research Center, MD. The Service should work closely with the U.S. Geological Survey to develop a budget for this program that clearly and fairly delineates the funding requirements for each of the bureaus. The Service should not fund any costs that are not specifically required for the refuge. The USGS should fund the costs related to the research center.

6. The funding provided for replacing the Puerto Rican parrot aviary is the full Federal share from the Service's construction budget.

7. The funding provided for the Wolf Creek NFH, WV, visitor center completes this project.

#### LAND ACQUISITION

The conference agreement provides \$43,628,000 for land acquisition instead of \$23,058,000 as proposed by the House and \$64,689,000 as proposed by the Senate. Funds should be distributed as follows:

<i>Area (State)</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Alaska Peninsula NWR (AK) .....	\$250,000
Baca NWR (CO) .....	7,000,000
Back Bay NWR (VA) .....	750,000
Balcones Canyonland NWR (TX) .....	2,000,000
Big Muddy NFWR (MO) .....	500,000
Boyer Chute NWR (NE) .....	500,000
Canaan Valley NWR (WV) .....	600,000
Cape May NWR (NJ) .....	750,000
Chickasaw NWR (TN) .....	750,000
Clarks River NWR (KY) .....	500,000
Dakota Tallgrass Prairie (SD) .....	1,000,000
Great River NWR (MO/IL) .....	500,000
Great Swamp NWR (NJ) .....	750,000
James Campbell NWR (HI) .....	250,000
Lower Hatchie NWR (TN) .....	1,800,000
Lower Rio Grande NWR (TX) .....	1,000,000
Northern Tallgrass Prairie (MN/IA) .....	470,000
Patoka River NWR (IN) .....	500,000
Rachel Carson NWR (ME) .....	750,000
Red River NWR (LA) .....	500,000
Rhode Island refuge complex (RI) .....	1,000,000
San Diego NWR (CA) .....	2,000,000
Silvio O Conte NWR (MA/NH/VT) .....	750,000
Togiak NWR (AK) .....	1,000,000
Waccamaw NWR (SC) .....	1,300,000
Western Montana Project/Blackfoot Challenge .....	2,000,000
White Sulphur Springs NFH (WV) .....	400,000
Yukon Flats NWR (AK) .....	500,000
Subtotal .....	30,070,000
Acquisition Management .....	8,500,000
Emergencies and Hardship .....	1,000,000
Exchanges .....	500,000
Inholdings .....	1,500,000
Cost Allocation Methodology (CAM) .....	2,058,000
Total .....	43,628,000

The managers are supportive of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge but have deferred decisions on further appropriations at this time based on information from the Service that additional funds could not be obligated in 2004. Further acquisitions have been delayed pending resolution of outstanding issues related to contaminants. The managers strongly encourage the Service to work to address these issues so that further development of the refuge can proceed.

The managers understand and appreciate the potential benefits of a proposed expansion of the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. The expansion would restore over 800 acres of prime wetland habitat, while simultaneously mitigating flood risks for neighboring communities. The managers strongly urge the Service to work expeditiously to complete action on the joint EIS.

The managers have not included funding for Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge because there are presently no options to purchase land.

#### LANDOWNER INCENTIVE PROGRAM

The conference agreement provides \$30,000,000 for the landowner incentive program instead of \$40,000,000 as proposed by both the House and the Senate.