



Conservation Affairs Network
Policy Toolkit
Section 5

**5.3 U.S. AND CANADIAN FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION AGENCIES**

U.S. Federal Government Agencies

- **[Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#)**

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service - The [Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service](#) (APHIS) provides leadership in ensuring the health and care of animals and plants. APHIS improves agricultural productivity and competitiveness and contributes to the national economy and the public health.

Programs of Interest: Wildlife Services; Methods Development

Appropriations: Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

Farm Service Agency - The [Farm Service Agency](#) (FSA) implements agricultural policy, administers credit and loan programs, and manages conservation, commodity, disaster and farm marketing programs through a national network of offices.

Programs of Interest: Conservation Reserve Program (CRP); Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP); Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP)

Appropriations: Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

Forest Service - The [Forest Service](#) (USFS) administers programs for applying sound conservation and utilization practices to natural resources of the national forests and grasslands, for promoting these practices on all forest lands through cooperation with states and private landowners, and for carrying out extensive forest and range research. USFS manages 193 million acres of public lands in 43 states and Puerto Rico.

Programs of Interest: Integrated Resource Restoration Program; Forest and Rangelands

Appropriations: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

National Institute of Food and Agriculture - The [National Institute of Food and Agriculture](#) (NIFA), formally the Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (CSREES), works in partnership with land-grant universities and other public and private organizations to provide the focus to advance a global system of extramural research, extension, and higher education in the food and agricultural sciences.

Programs of Interest: Renewable Resources Extension Act; McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Program

Appropriations: Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

Natural Resource Conservation Service -

The [Natural Resource Conservation Service](#) (NRCS) provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

Programs of Interest: Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP); Conservation Security Program (CSP); Agriculture Conservation Easement Program (ACEP); Healthy Forest Reserve Program; Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

Appropriations: Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

- **[Department of the Interior](#) (DOI)**

Bureau of Land Management - The [Bureau of Land Management](#) (BLM) manages 247 million of public lands located primarily in the 12 western states, including Alaska. BLM manages an additional 700 million acres of below ground mineral estate located throughout the country. These lands were originally valued for the commodities extracted from them. Today the public also prizes them for their recreational opportunities and the natural, historical, and cultural resources they contain.

Programs of Interest: Wildlife and Fisheries Management; Threatened and Endangered Species Management; Wild Horse and Burro Management

Appropriations: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

National Park Service - The [National Park Service](#) (NPS) preserves the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park System comprises 401 areas covering more than 84 million acres across every state, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. NPS cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

Appropriations: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - The [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) (FWS) is the only agency of the U.S. Government whose primary responsibility is fish, wildlife, and plant conservation. FWS helps protect a healthy environment for people, fish, and wildlife, and helps Americans conserve and enjoy the outdoors. FWS's major responsibilities are for

migratory birds, endangered species, certain marine mammals, and freshwater and anadromous fish. FWS manages 307 million acres of lands and waters across the U.S.

Programs of Interest: State and Tribal Wildlife Grants; National Wildlife Refuge System; North Americans Wetlands Conservation Act; Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Grants Program; Ecological Services Program; Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program

Appropriations: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

U.S. Geological Survey - The [U.S. Geological Survey](#) (USGS) serves as an independent fact-finding agency that collects, monitors, analyzes, and provides scientific understanding about natural resource conditions, issues, and problems. The value of the USGS rests on its ability to conduct studies on a national scale and to sustain long-term monitoring and assessment of natural resources. Because it has no regulatory or management mandate, the USGS provides impartial science that serves the needs of our changing world.

Programs of Interest: Ecosystems Program; Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units; National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Centers

Appropriations: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

Canadian Federal Government Agencies

- [Ministry of the Environment](#)

Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada - The [Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada](#) (COSEWIC) determines the national status of wild Canadian species, subspecies, varieties or other units that are suspected of being at risk of extinction or extirpation. COSEWIC uses a process based on science and Aboriginal or community knowledge to assess wildlife species at risk. The 31 voting members of COSEWIC include a Co-chair from each of the 10 Species Specialist subcommittees and a Co-chair from the Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Subcommittee, one member from each of the 13 provincial and territorial governments, one member from each of four Federal agencies (Canadian Wildlife Service, Parks Canada Agency, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Canadian Museum of Nature), and three non-government science members.

Environment Canada - Directly and/or through partnership arrangements, [Environment Canada](#) establishes and manages National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries for the conservation of habitat to protect migratory birds, species at risk and other species of national interest. National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries can be established in either terrestrial or marine environments.

Environment Canada also includes the [Canadian Wildlife Service](#) (CWS) which handles wildlife matters that are the responsibility of the federal government. These include the protection and management of migratory birds, nationally significant wildlife habitat, endangered species, control of international trade in endangered species, and research on wildlife issue of national importance.

Parks Canada - [Parks Canada](#) establishes and manages [National Parks](#) and [National Marine Conservation Areas](#), which are intended to protect a representative sample of Canada's 39 terrestrial natural regions and 29 marine regions and to provide opportunities for public education and enjoyment.

- **[Ministry of Natural Resources](#)**

Natural Resources Canada - [Natural Resources Canada](#) (NRCan) is primarily responsible for overseeing the management of Canada's forests and timber industry. NRCan also manages issues related to climate change and is responsible for the federal government's response plans regarding climate change and adaptation.