



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR)

June 2013

HANNIBAL BOLTON,
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR





WSFR Strategic Plan – September 2008

- Utilization of fish, wildlife, and their habitats:

To support the rich heritage associated with fish and wildlife uses, such as hunting, fishing, boating, trapping, shooting, wildlife observation and photography and conservation education.

- Management of fish, wildlife, and their habitats:

To maintain and enhance sustainable, healthy populations of fish, wildlife, and the habitats to support them

- Program Administration:

Program partners will ensure sound administration and oversight of funds and activities in accordance with core values and applicable laws, policies and regulations.





The Wildlife Restoration Program

- The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act was signed into law on September 2, 1937
- Funds are distributed to states based on land area and certified number of licensed hunters.
- In 2012, over \$371.3 million was distributed to state fish and wildlife agencies. These grant funds are derived from excise taxes paid by manufacturers on firearms, ammunition and archery equipment
- Federal funds are matched with state license revenue in a minimum 3-1 ratio (75%/25%)
- The Act also stipulates that to participate, states must use hunting license revenues exclusively to administer the state's fish and wildlife agency. Any potential diversion of license revenues to other purposes is closely monitored by the Service.





The Sport Fish Restoration Program

- The Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act was signed into law on August 9, 1950. The Act is also referred to as Wallop-Breaux for sponsors of a 1983 amendment that more than doubled the funding.
- Funds are apportioned to the states based on water area and certified number of licensed anglers.
- In 2012 over \$349.7 million went to state fish and wildlife agencies – Federal funding comes from an excise tax on angler-related equipment and from motor boat fuels.
- Federal funds are matched with state license revenue in a minimum 3-1 ratio (75%/25%).
- The Act also stipulates that to participate, states must use fishing license revenues exclusively to administer the state's fish and wildlife agency. The potential diversion of license fees to other purposes is closely monitored by the Service.





Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program – Grant Program Funding in FY 2012

	<u>\$Million</u>
■ Wildlife Restoration	371.3
■ Sport Fish Restoration	349.7
■ Clean Vessel Act	12.0
■ Coastal Wetlands	16.8
■ Boating Infrastructure Grants	12.0
■ State Wildlife Grants	53.0
■ Coastal Impact Assistance Program	556.0



\$1.37 billion



P-R Wildlife Restoration Program

2ND Quarter Receipts

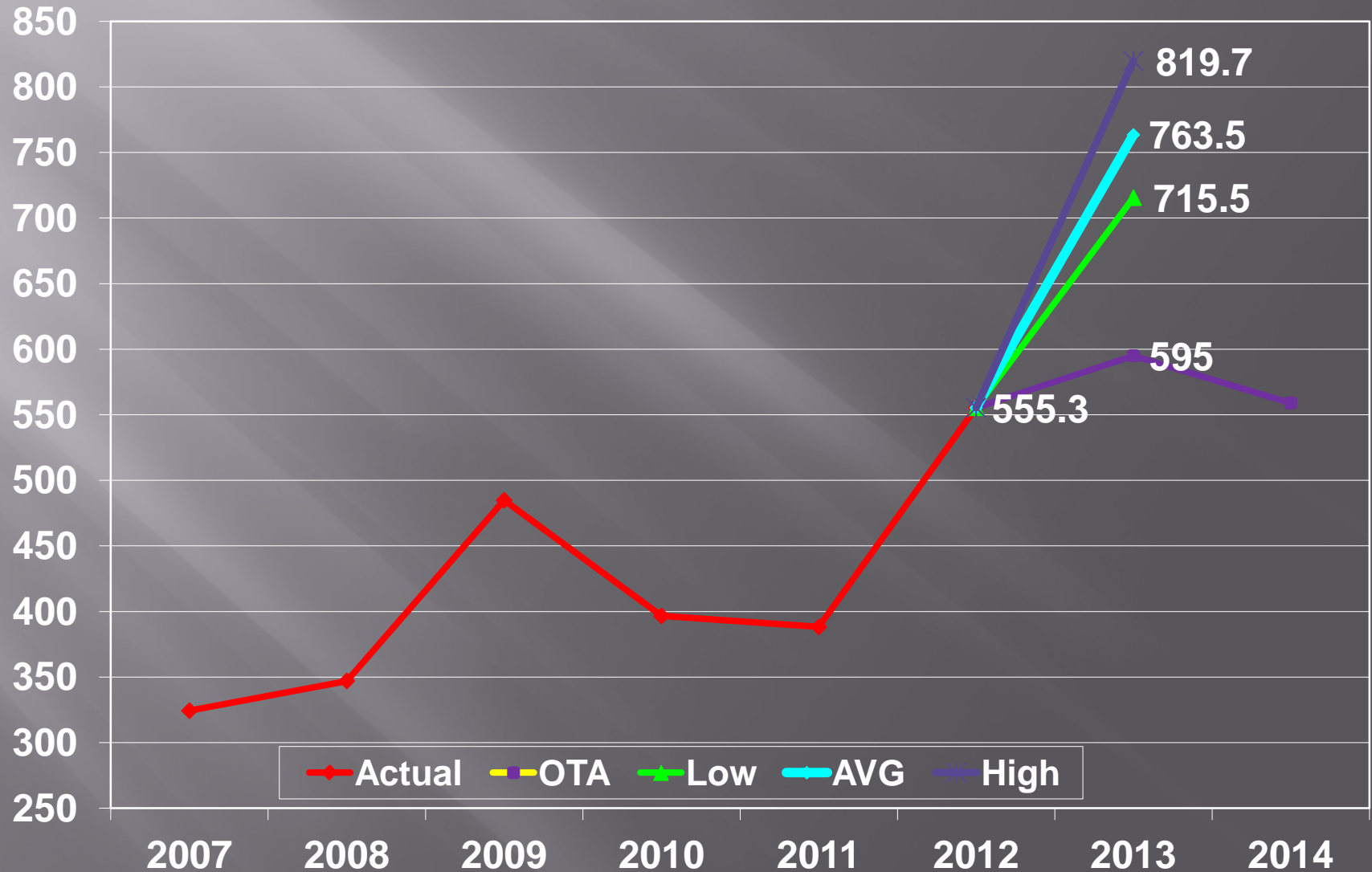
In Millions (M)

Year	13	12	11	10	09	08	07
QRT 2 Total	354.2	248.1	170.2	199.2	212.6	167.4	154.4
Firear m/Am mo	329.6	225.2	146.9	179.2	195.6	148.2	135.6
TOTA L YEAR	?	555.3	388.2	396.6	484.8	347.0	324.3



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

Wildlife Restoration Total Revenues Actual vs. Forecasts





D-J Sport Fish Restoration Funding

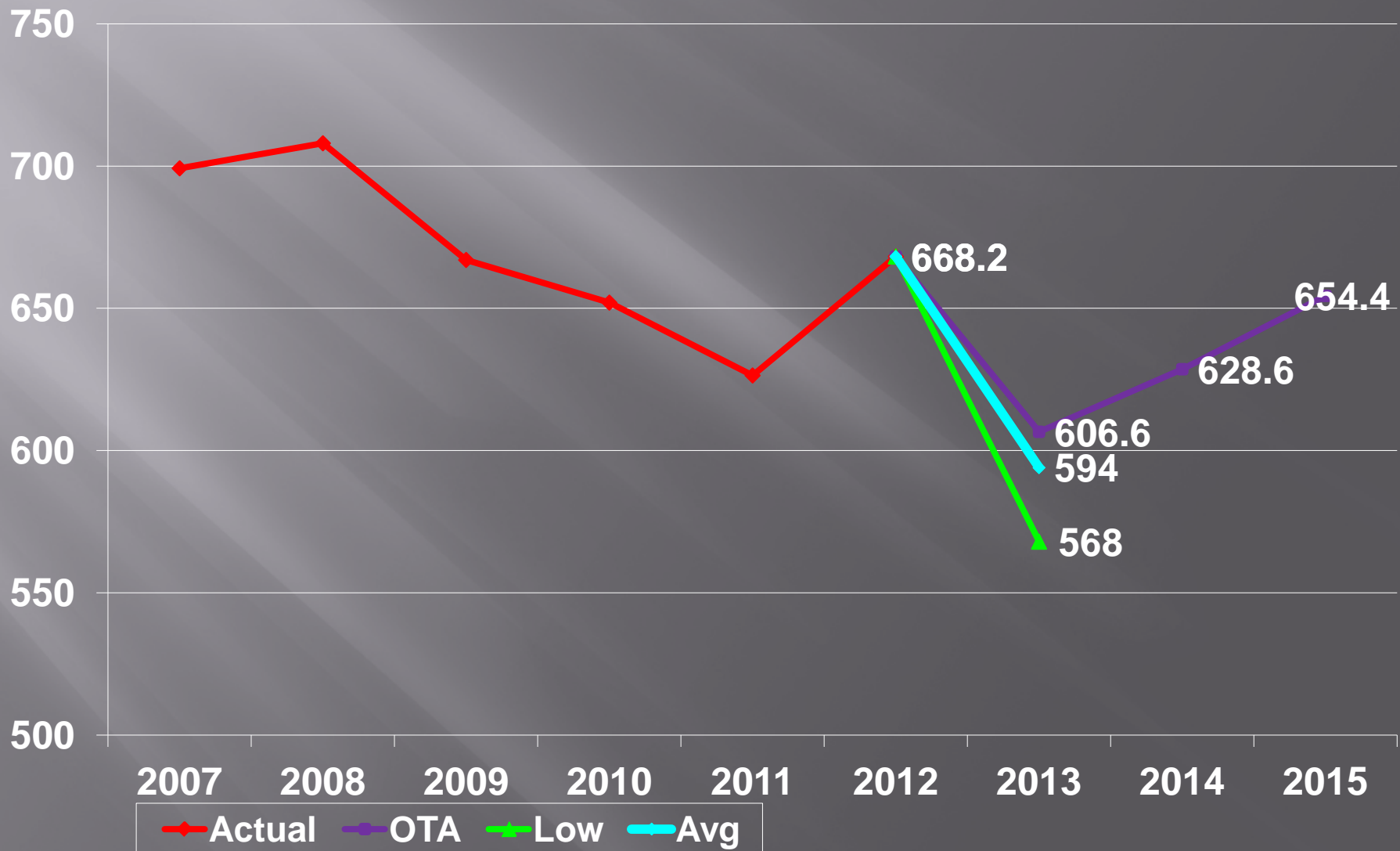
- ▣ Total Domestic Fishing Excise Tax Revenue through May down **44%**
 - Tax adjustments in March: Fishing Equipment - **\$20,047,868**
 - Rods & Reels - **52,167**
- ▣ Total Revenue currently **down 8.3 %**





Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

Sport Fish Restoration Total Revenues Actual vs. Forecasts





Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

Wildlife and Sport Fish Funding Status and Issues

- ▣ Hiring Freeze (Sequester impact)
- ▣ Unable to fill vacant positions created by attrition
- ▣ State legislation reviews and comments on bills.
- ▣ State agency consolidation issues
- ▣ Matching requirements for some States
- ▣ Diversion Actions
- ▣ Service to States
 - Longer Grant Processing Time
 - Reduced Travel to States for: Site Visits, Monitoring, Coordination



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

Federal Aid Coordinators Working Group

Top Issues - Needs

- ▣ Reauthorization of Wallop-Breaux
- ▣ How sequestration is affecting training, especially in regards to TRACS training
- ▣ Budget impacts
- ▣ FAIMS information now no longer available. Reports are critical to balance the State checkbook.
 - Want a report directly assessable by States
- ▣ WSFR staff member that deals with lands issues.
- ▣ Hiring freeze an issue and the waiver process to hire someone
- ▣ Budgetary constraints
- ▣ High demand for the Lands Course at NCTC



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

Federal Aid Coordinators Working Group

Top Issues - Needs

- ▣ Grants processed quickly and efficiently – Capacity and capability to be left up to the WSFR Chiefs
- ▣ Need most of the support for operations and maintenance, wildlife management, fisheries management
- ▣ Support relative to diversion – Recognition of political sensitivity at the State level
- ▣ Continued commitment to a true partnership
- ▣ Provide more specific details and instruction regarding the implementation of TRACS
- ▣ Reinstitute site visits – It seems the culture of spending a week in a State seeing the various projects has disappeared
- ▣ Communication important



WSFR Administration

- In 2013, the FWS received \$23,789,696 to administer the WSFR Programs:

Sport Fish Restoration -	\$ 9,982,657
Wildlife Restoration -	10,110,528
State Wildlife Grants -	3,254,716
Clean Vessel Act -	248,229
Boating Infrastructure Grants -	
202,566	



- Headquartered in Washington DC with 8 regional offices, this funds about 120 full time staff to administer WSFR grants and State Wildlife Grants. Average WSFR "Overhead Rate" is 1.66%

- Fixed Costs: \$5.7 million

State Audits	\$2.1 million
Central Overhead	1.7 million
Office Space	1.4 million
Regional Office Overhead	0.5 million





Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Training

Training in 2012

- 27 Courses with 600+ Students

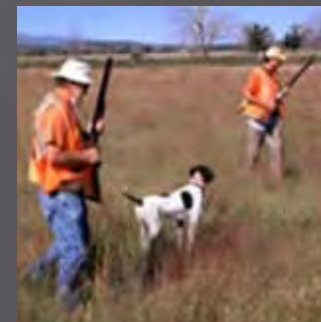
Training in 2013

- 16 regular national courses completed/scheduled through the end of 2013
- 3 TRACS Planning Meetings
- 35 TRACS Training Courses scheduled through 2013 about 500 state staff
- 51 courses total as of May 2013
- E-Learning modules in Planning for Release August

Financial Assistance Wiki

WSFR Wiki release to public late June

Web address: <http://fawiki.fws.gov>



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

TRACS - Update

- Wildlife TRACS User Acceptance Testing 'beta' version released in March 2013
- Training for WSFR staff - HQ remaining;
- State training from May to December 2013
- Security Assessment and Accreditation process for federal cloud environment – Completed
- Authorization to Operate (ATO) – Received May 17
- TRACS scheduled for preliminary release - July





Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

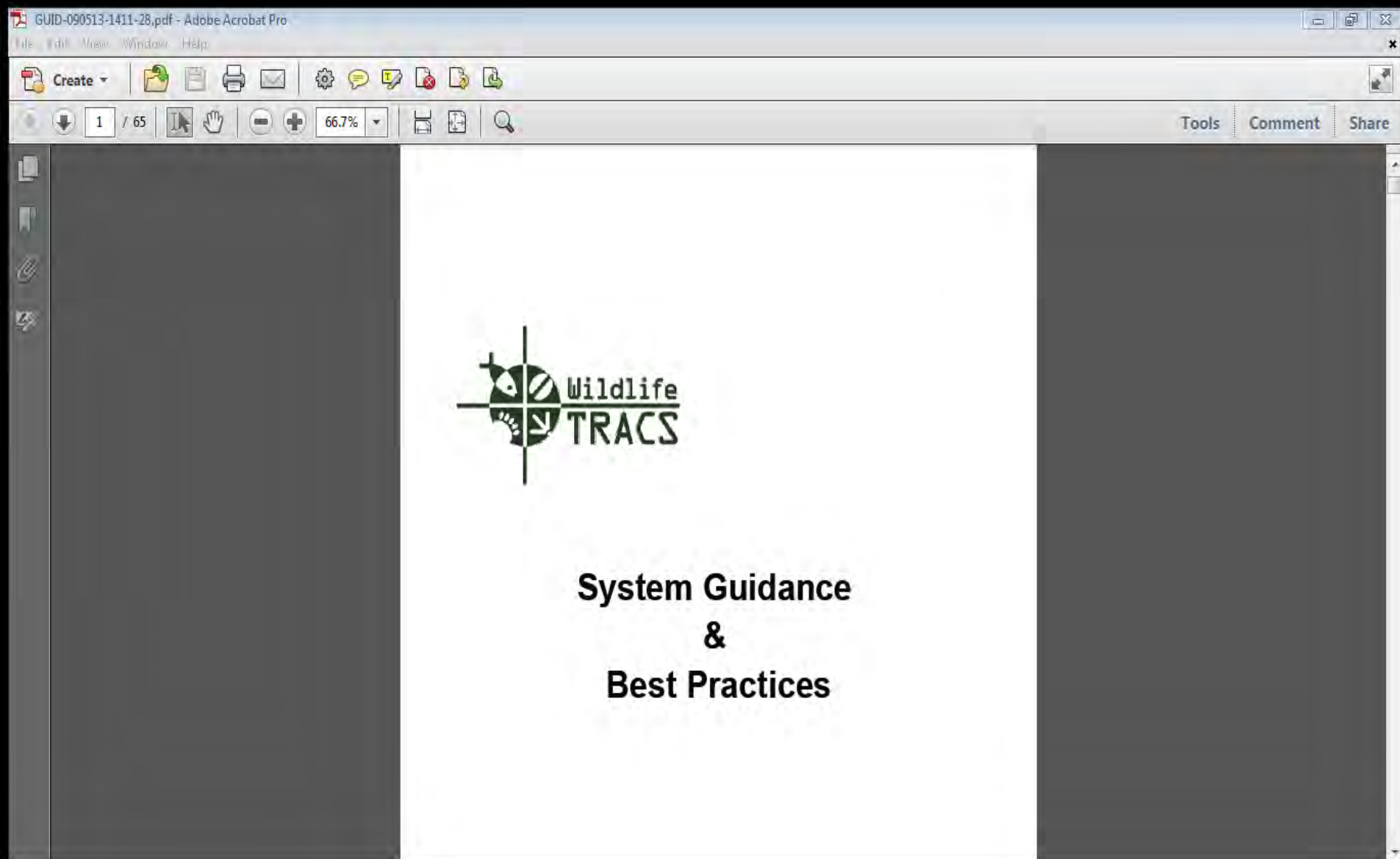
TRACS - Update

- ❖ Version 1 Status – 3 of 9 modules initial release
- ❖ Web Address Resolved with DOI
- ❖ <http://tracs.fws.gov>

- ❖ Policy Issues: No New
 - ❖ Disclaimer Statement – TBD
 - ❖ Digital Government - “Broadcast” Public TRACS data

- ❖ Guidance Committee – consists for FWS and States; best practices
 - ❖ Draft Document – to be reviewed by JTF

Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program





Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Planned FY 2014 Audits (Not Quantifiable)



▣ Planned FY2014 audits:

• Illinois	Estimate draft in March
• Washington	Estimate draft in March
• Tennessee	Draft Report 03/05/13
• Oregon	Estimate draft in April
• South Dakota	Draft Report 03/14/13
• District of Columbia	Estimate draft in April
• Indiana	Entrance Conference 03/05/13
• Wyoming	Entrance Conference 03/26/13
• Vermont	Scheduled for July
• Montana	Entrance Conference 04/16/13
• Arkansas*	Entrance Conference 01/23/13
• North Carolina Marine	Scheduled for late in the year
• North Carolina F&W	Scheduled for late in the year
• Idaho	Entrance Conference 04/09/13

Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Policy Branch

- ❑ Developed three Real Property Chapters. Will respond to comments and route in July
- ❑ Worked on development of TRACS Guidance
- ❑ Issued 60-day Notice issued for information collection. 30-day Notice and Supporting Statement scheduled for June
- ❑ Published BIG Proposed Rule in March 2012; responded to comments and decision to publish as an amended proposed rule. Rule amended, preamble being finalized, and will republish in July 2013
- ❑ Prepared several policy papers in response to requests, issues, and for the Financial Assistance Wiki



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Policy Reorganization

- ❑ Rescinding 12 chapters and 4 handbooks –
Comments due January 2, 2014
 - ❑ Chapters Rescinding: 522 FW 1, 2, 5, and 7 – 15
 - ❑ Handbooks Rescinding: Research and surveys, Tactical Planning, Hunter Education, and Aquatic Resources Education
- ❑ Asking for comments on 50 CFR 80 for possible review and changes –
Due September 4, 2013
- ❑ This is part of an overall reorganizing of policy to regulation, the Wiki, or other guidance. Working with Regions and JTF.





Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

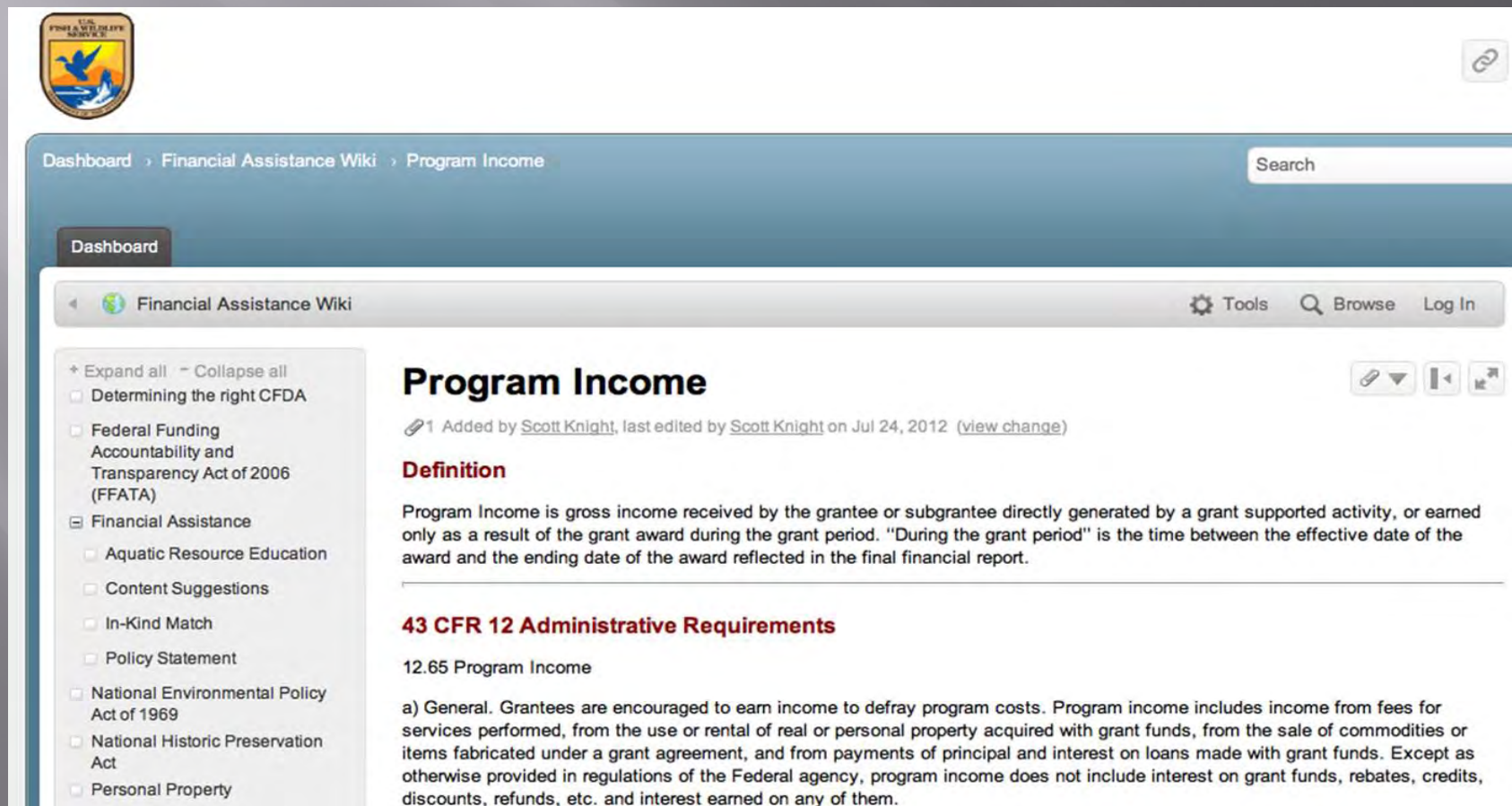
Revising WSFR Regulations

- ❑ Boating Infrastructure Grants – Proposed Rule published in the Federal Register March 28, 2012 with a 60-day public comment period. Several comments also requested additional time to review the proposal. We will publish an amended proposed rule Summer 2013 with another 60-day comment period.
- ❑ CVA – Preliminary draft 50 CFR 85 @ Spring 2014
- ❑ Time permitting: New regulations for Administration, Eligibility and Land Acquisition for grants funded through FWS-administered programs
- ❑ Assisting with National Coastal Wetlands Grant update – Spring 2014



Financial Assistance Wiki

- Knowledgebase Resource Tool
- Collaborative Workspace
- Scheduled to be released Summer 2013!



A screenshot of the Financial Assistance Wiki interface. The page features a top navigation bar with a logo on the left and a search bar on the right. Below the navigation bar is a breadcrumb trail: Dashboard > Financial Assistance Wiki > Program Income. A sidebar on the left contains a tree view of the wiki's structure, with 'Program Income' selected. The main content area displays the title 'Program Income' in large bold text, followed by a metadata line indicating it was added by Scott Knight on July 24, 2012. Below this is a 'Definition' section with a paragraph explaining that program income is gross income received by the grantee or subgrantee directly generated by a grant-supported activity. A section titled '43 CFR 12 Administrative Requirements' follows, with a sub-section '12.65 Program Income' containing a list item 'a) General' that describes the types of income included and excluded from the program income calculation.

Dashboard > Financial Assistance Wiki > Program Income

Search

Dashboard

Financial Assistance Wiki

Tools Browse Log In

Expand all Collapse all

- Determining the right CFDA
- Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA)
- Financial Assistance
 - Aquatic Resource Education
 - Content Suggestions
 - In-Kind Match
 - Policy Statement
- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
- National Historic Preservation Act
- Personal Property

Program Income

1 Added by [Scott Knight](#), last edited by [Scott Knight](#) on Jul 24, 2012 ([view change](#))

Definition

Program Income is gross income received by the grantee or subgrantee directly generated by a grant supported activity, or earned only as a result of the grant award during the grant period. "During the grant period" is the time between the effective date of the award and the ending date of the award reflected in the final financial report.

43 CFR 12 Administrative Requirements

12.65 Program Income

a) General. Grantees are encouraged to earn income to defray program costs. Program income includes income from fees for services performed, from the use or rental of real or personal property acquired with grant funds, from the sale of commodities or items fabricated under a grant agreement, and from payments of principal and interest on loans made with grant funds. Except as otherwise provided in regulations of the Federal agency, program income does not include interest on grant funds, rebates, credits, discounts, refunds, etc. and interest earned on any of them.



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program State Wildlife Grants Program

Competitive Component

Tribal Wildlife Grants

- 2013 cycle – \$4.3 M requested
- The Service awards grants up to a maximum of \$200,000 for a single project. There is no grant award minimum.



SWG Competitive Grants

- State Wildlife Action Plan Enhancement – NEW!
- 2013 cycle – Ranking Meeting May 20 – 23
- Reviewed 17 SWG-C Regular and 7 SWAP Enhancement
- Total Requested: Regular > \$7.3 M SWAP > \$605,700
- Will announce awards Summer 2013





Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

State Wildlife Grants Program – SWAP Revisions

- States must review and update their approved SWAPs by October 1, 2015.
- Regional Review Teams (RRT) are instrumental in the approval process.
- FWS-AFWA Joint Guidance - dated July 2007 converted into table format for clarity



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Boating Infrastructure Grant Program

Funding facilities for transient, recreational boats 26 feet in length or longer

ROUND 1

Basic Grants (Tier I) Up to \$100,000 per state

In FY13, \$2.5 million awarded to fund 25 projects

Nationally Competitive Grants (Tier II)

In FY13, \$11.3 million awarded for 16 projects in 15 states with \$7.2 M remaining....

ROUND 2


Received applications for 7-Tier 1 applications - \$514,200 and 25-Tier 2 applications -\$15.5 million - \$7.2 million available

Ranking meeting held June 10 - 11 - awards will be announced in August

FY 2014

We will consider adjusting the schedule slightly to accommodate announcement for Fiscal Year 2013, Round 2





Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Clean Vessel Act Grant Program

Provide pump-outs and dump stations
floating restrooms and pump-out boats
across the country for boaters

FY13: \$14.76 million awarded for 31 projects
in 23 States/Territories

Awards also reviewed by EPA and Coast
Guard

- NOAA invited to review, but no response

For FY 2014 Applications Due: December
4, 2012



Fiscal Year 2013 Awards
Just Announced!

Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-associated Recreation

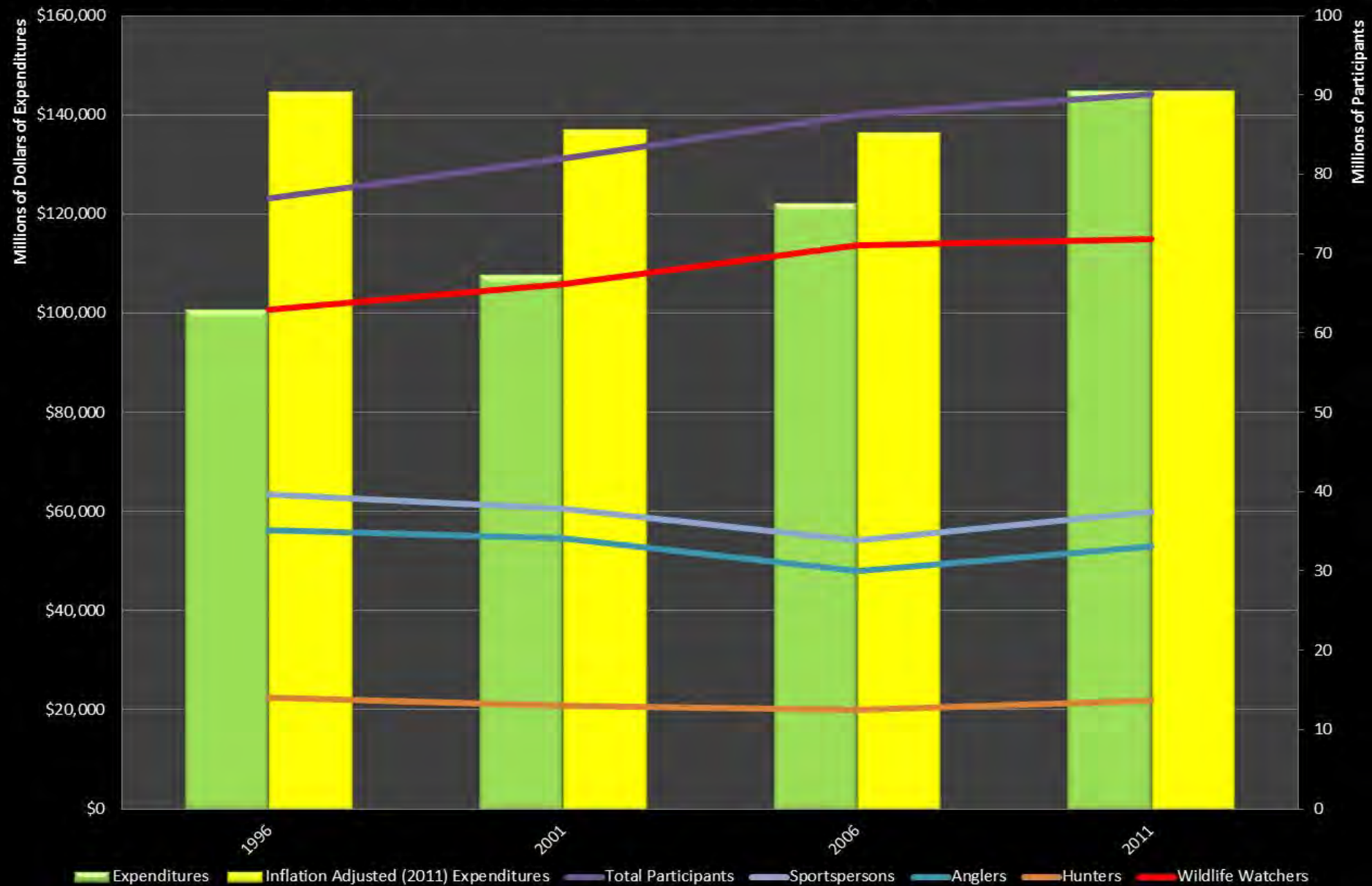
- U.S. Census Bureau and WSFR Program
- National Report pdf, Quick Facts brochure, and database on CD- Rom have been produced
- State reports are posted on the following website as they are released:

http://www.census.gov/prod/www/general_reference.html#fhwar





Wildlife-Associated Recreational Activities Participation and Expenditures 1996 - 2011



Sources: 1996 to 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation



Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

JOINT FEDERAL/STATE POLICY TASK FORCE



- Last Meeting – May 20 & 21, 2013
- Next Meeting – November 5 – 6



- Future Topics
 - TRACS Progress & Guidance Review
 - Policy Reorganization
 - License Certification





Sharing Information

- ▣ Online Newsletter

- Success Stories
- Partnerships



- ▣ New Webpage on FWS.gov

- ▣ WSFR Facebook

- ▣ WSFR Twitter

- ▣ WSFR YouTube



WILDLIFE AND SPORT FISH RESTORATION PROGRAM

QUESTIONS?
CONCERNS?
COMMENTS?



[HTTP://WSFRPROGRAMS.FWS.GOV/](http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/)

