

# RESOURCE PROTECTION: PROTECT THE NATION'S NATURAL, CULTURAL, AND HERITAGE RESOURCES

The Department of the Interior is steward and caretaker for many of the Nation's natural and cultural resources. We conserve federally managed lands and waters, ensuring that these assets are available for current future generations to enjoy. We are the guardians of many of our Nation's unique cultural and historic sites. We work with partners to conserve thousands of native plant and animal species, including 1,311 U.S. species with special status under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and we work cooperatively and holistically to limit the effect of invasive species.

FIGURE 1-13



## Keeping an Unbridled American Spirit Strong and Free: "Save the Mustangs"

In May 2005, Interior's Bureau of Land Management, Take Pride in America, and the Ford Motor Company joined forces to establish the "Save the Mustangs" fund ([www.savethemustangs.org](http://www.savethemustangs.org)) to build public awareness and support for America's wild horses. As of May 2006, only one year later, the partnership had raised more than \$200,000 for distribution to eligible wild horse and equine rescue groups to help place thousands of mustangs into private, long-term care.

The Bureau of Land Management manages the Nation's wild horses and burros under authority of the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act. Herds are managed to keep wild populations at balanced levels to ensure they remain healthy and thriving. To assist with herd management, BLM sponsors adoptions and sales. Since 1973, the bureau has placed more than 208,000 wild horses and burros into private care through its adoption program ([www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov](http://www.wildhorseandburro.blm.gov)).

The "Save the Mustangs" fund will provide non-profit wild horse and equine rescue organizations that buy saleable wild horses with financial assistance to care for the horses. The program represents an excellent example of creative solutions between the public, private organizations, and government to help protect an American legacy.

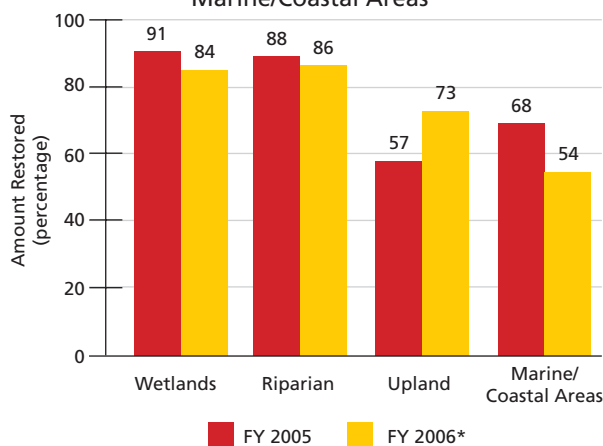
In FY 2006, we met 79% of our performance targets for our Resource Protection responsibility. We did not meet 19% of our targets. This compares with 83% of targets met and 15% of targets where we fell short in FY 2005. The remaining were “no reports.” (See Figure 1-22 for more detail). Note: Within the narrative discussion for each mission area, we include parenthetical references to Performance Measure ID numbers used in the results tables in the Performance Data and Analysis section. These are for the convenience of readers wanting to cross-reference the data.

We fell short of meeting targets in the area of Resource Protection due to:

- constraints and complicating factors resulting from natural events, such as hurricanes and fires, which either prevented or hampered land and water treatment and habitat recovery efforts (Ref #1, 14, 18, 20);
- targeting errors and inherent difficulties in setting precise targets for projects that vary in size and scope, particularly in instances where the extent of issues being addressed is still an unknown (Ref. #7, 27);

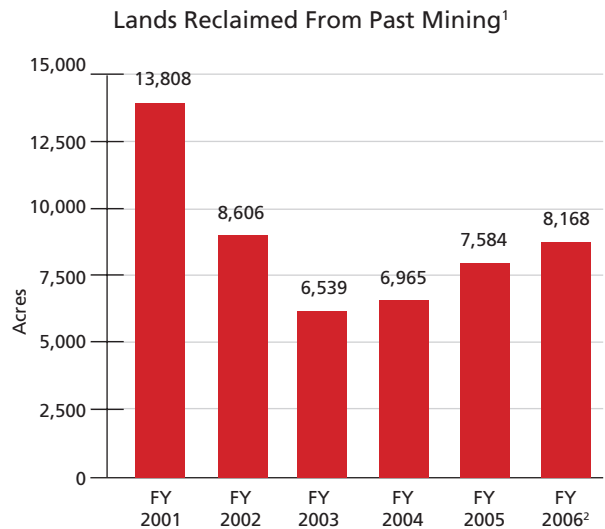
FIGURE 1-15

Percent of total acres restored in FY06 that represent Targeted Wetlands, Riparian, Upland, and Marine/Coastal Areas



\*Based on estimated data.

FIGURE 1-14



<sup>1</sup> Data prior to FY 2005 represent the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) contribution only.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated.

- discrepancies in the accuracy of data reporting, particularly when the reporting involves external partners and cooperators (Ref. 36).

### Restoring Our Lands and Waters

Interior’s resource protection responsibilities extend to monitoring and repairing damage done by past mining, even if the lands affected are not federally managed. In FY 2006, we reclaimed an estimated 8,168 acres of land, and improved 69 stream miles and 32 surface acres of water degraded by past mining (see Figure 1-14 for trend data) (Ref #5, 6, 7). This compares to 7,584 acres of land, 28 stream miles and 35 surface acres of water that were improved in FY 2005.

Our efforts to support healthy and productive lands depend upon partnerships with others. We actively implement the President’s Facilitation of Cooperative Conservation Executive Order, which directs land-managing agencies to work with others to improve the use, enhancement, and enjoyment of natural resources, and to protect the environment.

Cooperative Conservation uses the synergy of partnerships, collaboration, leverage, innovation, and incentives to achieve the Nation’s environmental goals. A suite of cooperative grant and cost-share programs

underpins Interior's conservation partnerships. Landowner Incentive Programs, Private Stewardship Grants, the Challenge Program, and Partners for Fish and Wildlife and Coastal programs all emphasize local input and involvement, using various monetary and non-monetary incentives to inspire and encourage landowners to manage private lands in a manner that supports resource protection goals and a sustainable environment.

In FY 2006, our collaborative efforts helped achieve desired conditions for upland, riparian, wetland, and marine and coastal areas, as specified in our management plans (see Figure 1-15, Ref #1, 2, 3, 4). We used voluntary partnerships to help us achieve watershed and landscape goals, restoring an estimated 670,620 acres against a target of 651,087 and an estimated 677 stream/shoreline miles against a target of 658 (Ref #22 and 23). Our work with wetland areas addresses President Bush's Wetland Initiative, which set a government-wide goal of increasing wetland acres by 3 million acres by 2009.

Science is the basis for sound land and resource decisionmaking. Our U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) serves as the Department's principal science agency. USGS shares data with partners and others who can use the information to advance their missions. In FY 2006, 96% of those surveyed reported they were satisfied with the science information and products we provided to them (Ref #17).

## The War on Invasive Species

Invasive species threaten ecological and economic health worldwide. These invaders are non-native plants, animals, or other organisms, such as microbes, whose introduction hurt the economy or harm environmental, wildlife, or human health. Problems arise when these species are released into the wild, where they often spread, choking out our endemic flora and fauna and competing for resources like water, food, and sunlight. The spread of invasive plants, animals, and pathogens is considered to be one of the most serious ecological problems in the 21st Century, second only to habitat destruction.

In FY 2006, Interior continued to address invasive plant species on Federal lands, controlling an

FIGURE 1-16



### Watching Out for Suckers

Lost River suckers and shortnose suckers are fish that live most of their life in quiet lakes and migrate up fast-running streams in the spring to spawn. They can live up to 45 and 33 years, respectively. At one time, these fish were so plentiful that canneries were built to package them for human consumption. Over-harvesting, pollution, and habitat loss have taken their toll, reducing both the population size of the fish and their reproductive abilities. Both of these once abundant fish are now on the endangered species list.

As part of an effort to restore these species to healthy levels, USGS has been monitoring spawning populations of endangered Lost River suckers and shortnose suckers in the Upper Klamath River basin of Oregon and California since 1995. The USGS is complementing biological data with hydrologic information because water availability and quality are primary concerns of the DOI, State, and tribal natural resource agencies that manage fishery and aquatic resources, National Wildlife Refuges, and agricultural interests in the upper Klamath Basin.

The USGS ongoing, long-term sucker monitoring program tracks the current status and health of adult populations, including species types, size and growth rates, their reproductive abilities, spawning success, and the rate of population change. USGS has developed a ground water model of the region that helps resource managers optimize the amount, timing, and location of ground water withdrawals used to augment flows and lake levels for fish. USGS hydrologists have used their data to improve seasonal runoff forecasts for Upper Klamath Lake, providing water managers with access to accurate information on water availability well before the beginning of an irrigation season. These scientists are also investigating the internal sources of nutrients that cause severe water-quality problems for fish in order to determine how these nutrients can be controlled, where and what control measures are most effective, and how long it would take for benefits to occur. Researchers are developing a hydrodynamic model of Upper Klamath Lake to assess the environmental factors that most affect fish die-off events, such as lake water level, wind speed and direction, and water temperature.

The Lost River suckers and shortnose suckers may be endangered for now. But USGS experts are providing essential scientific data that natural resource managers need to make informed decisions regarding water resources in the Klamath Basin, to recover these fish populations to healthy levels, and to restore critical habitats.

FIGURE 1-17

### Stabilizing Endangered Species

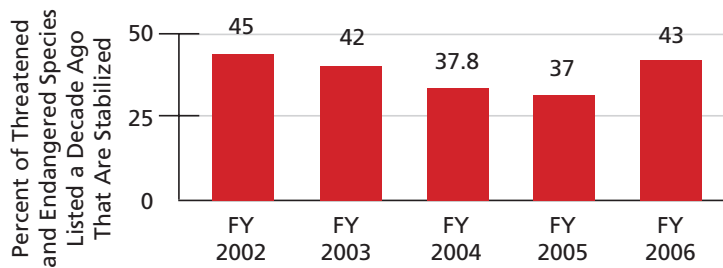


FIGURE 1-18

estimated 2% (or 660,410 acres) of known infestations (Ref #30), and restoring an estimated 487,670 acres of land and 1,685 (Ref #32, 33) miles of stream- and shoreline to mitigate or eliminate the effects of these invaders. These efforts supported native species by creating habitat conditions that enable them to flourish and met our performance targets for the year.

### Improving the Status of Endangered Species and Other Species of Management Concern

A key part of our resource protection mission is recovering endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Restoring the populations and viability of endangered and threatened species to the point where they can be delisted is a prime responsibility of the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). FWS determines whether to list a species, depending on the five criteria identified within the ESA.

In FY 2006, Interior reported that 43% (Ref #28) of threatened or endangered species listed a decade or more have been stabilized or improved (Figure 1-17). We helped bring an estimated 43% (Ref #27) of species of management concern back to self-sustaining levels, falling short of our target of 47% (or 431 species out of 923) due to targeting errors.

### Protecting, Preserving, and Restoring Physical Assets

As guardians of the Nation’s cultural heritage, we are responsible for priceless national assets, ranging from commemorative sites like the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., to Native American

**Not So Itsy, Bitsy Spider Makes a Comeback**

Imagine crawling on your hands and knees in a dark, mud-lined lava tube and coming face-to-face with a couple dozen baby wolf spiders. Is this a dream or a nightmare? For biologists of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, it’s a dream come true. For the first time in 10 years, researchers have observed actual hatched spiderlings of the rare Kauai cave wolf spider. The spider, first discovered in 1971, is found only in the lava tubes and cave-bearing rock in Kauai’s Koloa Basin. It is thought that the existing population is fewer than 30 individual spiders. Unlike most wolf spiders that produce 100 to 300 spiderlings per clutch, the Kauai cave wolf spider is thought to produce fewer than 30. The encouraging sighting has been attributed to collaborative efforts of researchers and private landowners to protect critical habitat and to educate the public about the species.

archeological and cultural sites such as Tuzigoot in Arizona. In 2005, Interior finalized its Asset Management Plan (AMP), which establishes a strategy to manage and oversee Interior-owned and leased assets, such as buildings, structures, our motor vehicle fleet, and office and warehouse space. Among the ways we measure performance with physical assets is to conduct annual condition assessments of all assets using the Facility Condition Index (FCI). The Facility Condition Index compares replacement costs versus maintenance costs on facilities. With the FCI as a starting point, managers can determine the investment needed to bring the asset to an acceptable condition over time.

FIGURE 1-19

### Preserving Our African American Legacy: Meet the Newest Additions to the National Park System

In February 2006, two new units were added to the National Park System, bringing the total number to 390. Both are significant historical and cultural treasures that contribute to America's African American heritage. The new sites are Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site in Washington, D.C., and African Burial Ground National Monument in New York City.

The Carter G. Woodson site is the home of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who was instrumental in establishing African American history as an academic discipline. Dr. Woodson, who was trained at Harvard and served as a D.C. public school teacher, is probably best known for establishing Negro History Week in 1926, now recognized as African American History Month (or Black History Month).

The African Burial Ground is part of an original, seven-acre site containing the remains of approximately 15,000 people, making it the largest and oldest African cemetery excavated in North America. Archeologists confirm that the site is of unprecedented national and international historical significance.



*African Burial Ground National Monument, New York City*

The Department plans to repair facilities to “acceptable condition” and reduce deferred maintenance to the established goal of an acceptable facility condition index for each asset type. With the completion of the first round of Comprehensive Condition Assessments in FY 2006, we will review the existing FCIs and the existing conditions of the assets in the inventory, and develop DOI ranges for good, fair, and poor ratings by asset type.

An estimated 33% of the cultural resource collections in DOI inventory were in good condition, short of a target of 36% (Ref #41). An estimated 59% of our cultural properties (Ref #40) were in good condition.

FIGURE 1-20

### Establishment of World's Largest Marine Conservation Area Complements 100th Anniversary of Antiquities Act

In June 2006, President Bush created the world's largest marine conservation area, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument. Located off the coast of the northern Hawaiian Islands, the 140,000 square mile area will permanently protect pristine coral reefs and unique marine species. The new national monument was established under the Antiquities Act, a law established 100 years ago in June 1906 by President Theodore Roosevelt. The Act gives the President of the United States the authority to declare by public proclamation, historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments.



FIGURE 1-21

How Interior Performed at a Glance: FY 2005-2006		
Selected Performance Measures from Resource Protection Mission Area		
Performance Measure	FY 2005	FY 2006
Legend: □ = No Report ■ = Target Not Met ■ = Target Met ■ = Target Exceeded		
#1: Wetland areas—Percent of acres achieving desired conditions	91%	84% E
#2: Riparian areas—Percent of stream-miles achieving desired conditions	88%	86% E
#3: Upland areas—Percent of acres achieving desired conditions	57%	73% E
#4: Marine and coastal areas—Percent of acres achieving desired marine and coastal conditions	68%	54% E
#5: Number of land acres reclaimed or mitigated from the effects of degradation from past mining	7584	8168 E
#6: Number of stream-miles for which degradation from past surface coal mining has been improved	28	69
#7: Number of surface acres of water for which degradation from past surface mining has been improved	35	32
#17: Satisfaction with science information and products	100%	96%
#22: Number of acres achieving watershed and landscape goals through voluntary partnerships	1,004,596	670,620 E
#23: Number of stream/shoreline miles achieving watershed and landscape goals through voluntary partnerships	888	677 E
#27: Percent of species of management concern that are managed to self-sustaining levels, in cooperation with affected States and others, as defined in approved management documents	50%	43% E
#28: Percent of threatened or endangered species listed a decade or more that are stabilized or improved	37%	43%
#30: Percent of baseline area infested with invasive plant species that is controlled	2%	2% E
#32: Number of acres restored or enhanced to achieve habitat conditions to support species conservation consistent with management documents, program objectives	383,478	487,670 E
#33: Number of stream/shoreline miles restored or enhanced to achieve habitat conditions to support species conservation consistent with management documents, program objectives	1313	1685 E
#40: Percent of cultural properties on DOI inventory in good condition	57%	59% E
#41: Percent of collections in DOI inventory in good condition	49%	33% E

FIGURE 1-22

<b>Resource Protection—Protect the Nation’s natural, cultural, and heritage resources</b>				
Performance and Cost Scorecard				
End Outcome Goal	Number of Goals Met	Number of Unmet Goals	Number of No Reports*	Goal Activity Costs (rounded to thousands)
Goal #1: Improve Health of Watersheds, Landscapes, and Marine Resources that are DOI Managed or Influenced in a Manner Consistent with Obligations Regarding the Allocation and Use of Water	<b>20</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$2,350,629</b>
Goal #2: Sustain Biological Communities on DOI Managed and Influenced Lands and Waters in a Manner Consistent with Obligations Regarding Allocation and Use of Water	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$1,257,776</b>
Goal #3: Protect Cultural and Natural Heritage Resources	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$338,429</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$3,946,834</b>
Percentage Out of a Total of 48 Measures	<b>79%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>2%</b>	

\* For the purpose of this chart, preliminary data are considered a “no report.”