

# Mission Area One

## Resource Protection

Interior protects America's natural, cultural and heritage resources. Four Outcome Goals reflect our major objectives in pursuing this Mission Area:

- ◆ Improve health of watersheds, landscapes, and marine resources that are DOI managed or influenced consistent with obligations and State law regarding the allocation and use of water
- ◆ Sustain biological communities on DOI managed and influenced lands and waters consistent with obligations and State laws regarding the allocation and use of water
- ◆ Protect cultural and natural heritage resources
- ◆ Improve the understanding of national ecosystems and resources through integrated interdisciplinary assessment

### Benefits

This Mission Area embodies a portion of Interior's stewardship pact with the American people: to protect our natural resources, as well as our inheritance of cultural and heritage assets. We preserve the past and the present with the goal of maintaining it for the future. The benefits to achieving our Outcome Goals are multifaceted yet interconnected.

Interior is the Nation's principal conservation agency. We manage over 500 million acres of public lands and 56 million surface acres of Indian trust lands. These assets are valued for their environmental resources, recreational and scenic merits, and vast open spaces. Our responsibilities also extend to monitoring and repairing damage done by past mining. The well-being of our land and water is critical to the ecology of our Nation.

Successful conservation works best in partnership with the American people. Our strategy is to empower Americans to become citizen-conservationists. Thousands of different cooperative projects are ongoing today across our Bureaus

based on collaborations with other Federal, State and local agencies, public and private organizations, Tribes, and private landowners. Interior can offer landowners, land-user groups, environmental organizations, communities, tribes, and companies resources and technical support to undertake conservation projects that advance the health of the land, benefiting all of us.

The Department is charged with protecting thousands of native plant and animal species, including more than 1,300 with special status under the Endangered Species Act and nearly 300 candidate species. The forests, mountains, and deserts house biological diversity that is critical to overall ecosystem health, and potentially impacts our own survival.

Interior also conserves the Nation's cultural and heritage sites that reflect a past as rich and diverse as our country. The expanse of these assets includes over 100,000 archeological sites, nearly 40,000 historical structures, and 140 million cultural and museum objects and documents.

The U.S. Geological Survey, the Department's principal science agency, supports our Resource Protection mission. USGS data contributes to sound land and resource decisionmaking through data collection and integration, as well as understanding, modeling, and predicting how multiple forces affect natural systems. Science lies at the foundation of our programs, including ongoing evaluation of their quality and relevance.

## Representative Strategic Plan Measures

We have selected representative performance measures under each Outcome Goal to provide a picture of our overall performance in the Resource Protection Mission Area.

**GOAL: Improve health of watersheds, landscapes, and marine resources that are DOI managed or influenced consistent with obligations and State law regarding the allocation and use of water**

- ◆ Percent of DOI stream and shoreline miles that have achieved desired conditions where condition is known and as specified in management plans
- ◆ Percent of DOI acres that have achieved desired conditions where condition is known and as specified in management plans
- ◆ Number of Federal, private, and tribal land and surface water acres reclaimed or mitigated from the effects of natural resource degradation from past coal mining

**GOAL: Sustain biological communities on DOI managed or influenced lands and waters consistent with obligations and State law regarding the allocation and use of water**

- ◆ Percent of all migratory bird species that are at healthy and sustainable levels
- ◆ Percent of threatened or endangered species that are stabilized or improved
- ◆ Percent of baseline acres infested with invasive plant species that are controlled

**GOAL: Protect cultural and natural heritage resources**

- ◆ Percent of historic structures on DOI inventory in good condition

**GOAL: Improve the understanding of National ecosystems and resources through integrated interdisciplinary assessment**

- ◆ Percent of targeted science products that are used by partners for land or resource management decisionmaking

Discussion

**GOAL:** Improve health of watersheds, landscapes, and marine resources that are DOI managed or influenced consistent with obligations and State law regarding the allocation and use of water

**Representative Strategic Plan Measure:** Percent of stream/shoreline miles that have achieved desired conditions where condition is known and as specified in management plans

FIGURE 1-8

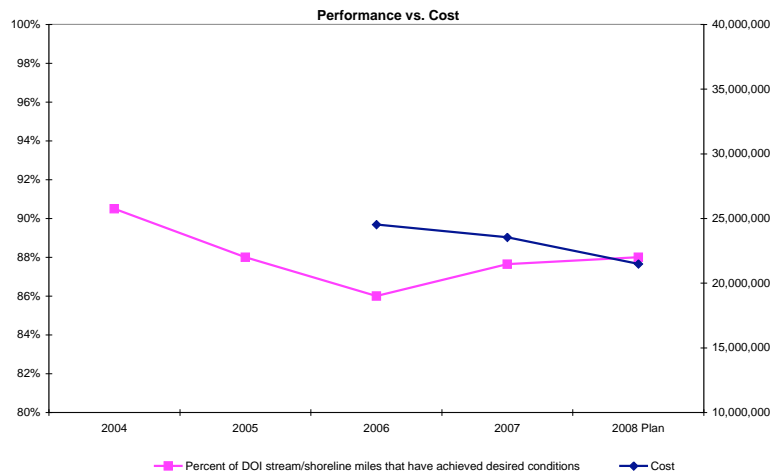


FIGURE 1-9

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 Plan
Performance	90.5%	88.0%	86.0%	87.6%	88.0%
Stream/shoreline miles in desired condition	126,821	131,200	137,173	195,306	196,197
Stream/shoreline miles whose condition is known	140,096	149,167	159,411	222,830	222,830
Cost (\$)	Not Available	Not Available	24,523,638	23,550,163	21,495,885

Three Bureaus look after our streams and shorelines: Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service. Overall performance has been reasonably steady in the 85–90 percent range.

These Bureaus assess, record, and treat more and more streams and shoreline, as seen in the increasing number of miles included in the table. The largest portion belongs to BLM with a little more than 140,000 miles. FWS tracks almost 67,000 miles and NPS, which began reporting in 2007, almost 13,000 miles.

Bureau management plans detail what constitutes desired condition. Performance improvement is hard to assess on a year-to-year basis. However,

the Bureaus concur that achieving desired condition is a lengthy process and is affected by a number of management actions and treatments, including planting, seeding, wildfire, actions to control invasive plant and noxious weeds, and environmental conditions.

Particularly in refuges, streams and shorelines provide important habitat for a variety of fish, wildlife, and plants. Restoration often includes soft shoreline protection and planting native vegetation. Typical materials utilized for such projects include coconut filter fabric, coir logs, and native live plants and seed mixes. The nonnative materials usually biodegrade within five years after the vegetation has been established. Volunteers often provide invaluable labor to help with projects like these.



**Stream/Shoreline Miles Restored**

Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge, CO

FWS is partnering with USGS to restore riparian habitat along the Illinois River within Arapaho NWR in Colorado. Efforts have focused on replanting native willow species along the river banks and fencing exclusion areas to protect sites from excessive grazing from large animals like elk and cattle. These exclosures will help determine if grazing is a factor in why willow regeneration is not occurring naturally in the riparian area. Volunteers have also participated through a partnership with Wildlands Restoration Volunteers, a nonprofit group based in Boulder, Colorado, which organizes public involvement and provides trained crew leaders in these restoration efforts. The project implements the concept of adaptive management as various approaches to willow replanting and exclosure designs are tried and their effectiveness is measured. Riparian willow habitat is important to a number of wildlife species, including neotropical migratory birds. This project is partially funded through the Science Support Partnership program between FWS and USGS.



**Innovative Water Management**

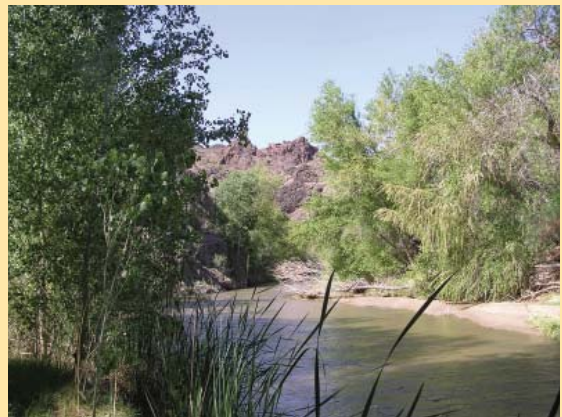
Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge, AZ



The Bill Williams River Corridor Steering Committee, headed by FWS in collaboration with BLM, BOR, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, The Nature Conservancy, and Arizona State and city agencies, has successfully achieved a more natural flow of the Bill Williams River.

By rewriting the Alamo Dam Management Plan, native cottonwood and willow growth along the river has been encouraged, while tamarisk, or salt cedar, an invasive plant species, has been dramatically reduced. By adjusting the water release and desirable flooding from the dam, seeding from the desirable trees can be actively managed. Once established, cottonwood and willow will out-compete tamarisk for the moisture, nutrients, sunlight, and space necessary for growth. As the riparian zone rebounds, monitoring and research continue. The refuge has documented over 350 species of birds, an unusually high number for the southwest desert.

*These photos show young cottonwood seedlings in 2005 and two years later—the same trees established without salt cedar developing.*



**Representative Strategic Plan Measure: Percent of DOI acres that have achieved desired condition where condition is known and as specified in management plans**

FIGURE 1-10

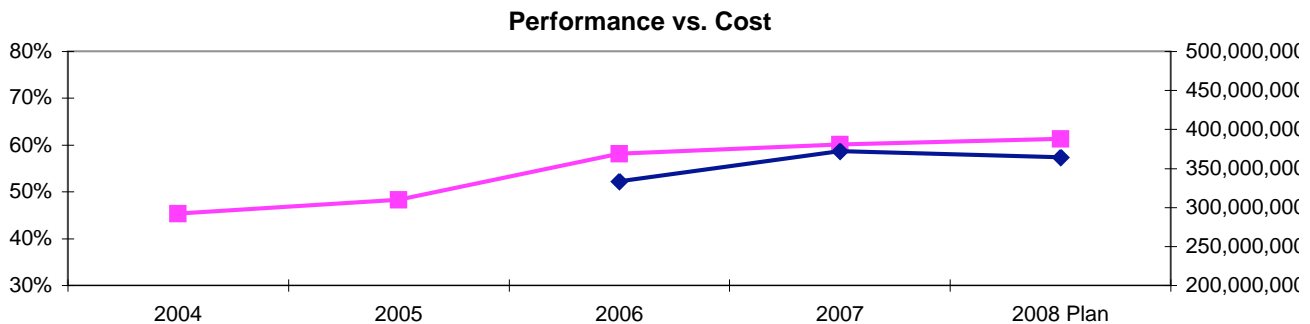


FIGURE 1-11

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 Plan
Performance	45%	48%	58%	60%	61%
Acres in desired condition	118,862,916	127,055,258	200,715,412	218,864,783	223,492,266
Acres with known condition	262,659,257	263,115,511	345,580,083	364,460,411	364,460,411
Cost (\$)	Not Available	Not Available	333,382,810	372,177,563	364,308,687

Improving the health of lands, watersheds, and marine resources is a key Outcome Goal in our Resource Protection mission area. Interior is the guardian of America's federally-managed lands and waters. The chart reflects a steady gradual increase in the percentage of acres achieving desired condition. This year the percentage increased by two percent over 2006.

Contributions to achieving desired condition are provided by the Bureau of Land Management, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service. NPS established a baseline for this measure in 2007 and will begin tracking results in 2008. While there has been steady progress, an additional infusion of \$22 million has been proposed in FY 2008 through the Healthy Lands Initiative to potentially increase the rate of improvement on more acreage.

The Initiative embodies a long-term, landscape-scale, collaborative effort with the goal of conservation and restoration of native habitats and fish and wildlife species, including those that are

rare and declining, while providing for managed development. We anticipate 800 species will benefit.

In BLM, \$15 million will be allocated to six priority geographic areas, five of which contain the largest onshore reserves of natural gas in the country. The Healthy Lands Initiative is characterized by the broad scale of the acreage it seeks to rehabilitate and conserve, and the accelerated pace—one to three years—at which results are expected. BLM faces a challenge noted in the Message from the Secretary of concurrently meeting land health goals while encouraging energy development and continued traditional land uses, including recreation, in the West.

BLM provided \$3 million from 2007 appropriated funds to jumpstart work under this Initiative. Several pilot areas were targeted and strides were made by treating the designated landscapes. This effort was expected to restore about 74,000 additional acres of BLM-managed land in 2007 and, with the additional monies proposed in the President's FY 2008 budget, over 300,000 of its acres are expected to be treated and restored in 2008.





### Seeding in the Snow

Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge, MN

At the Big Stone NWR, FWS uses a novel method for native prairie restoration: snow seeding. Using a seed spreader, native grass and wildflower seed is sown directly atop the snow over a former row-crop agricultural field. Snow seedings are very effective because the seed warms up in the sun and melts into the snow layer. The seed becomes locked into the snow and is “cold treated” during that time. As the snow melts the thin layer of soil near the soil surface becomes friable. The seed is planted naturally and the soil firms up as it dries. Native plants include species like little bluestem, big bluestem, Indian grass, cone flowers and blazing stars.



Achievement is based on the condition of lands assessed that are meeting land health standards. Along with the continuing effort to assess land condition, improvement in land health is a gradual process that often takes long periods of time to see change, sometimes decades, especially in the arid



### Cooperative Conservation

Fighting Weeds Together in the Florida Keys

Invasive weeds and exotic plants know no boundaries and are a nemesis to public land managers and private landowners alike. That’s why a landscape-scale, collaborative approach to eradicating invasive exotic plants in the Florida Keys has proven effective and exemplifies the principles of cooperative conservation.

The Florida Keys Invasive Exotics Task Force began eliminating weeds on public lands, but quickly realized that long-term success depended on private landowners and nurseries joining the effort. A volunteer corps was created and due to the size and relative isolation of the islands, efforts are proving to be highly successful. Invasive species have been purged on over 150 private properties in the Keys.

To further the education effort, the Task Force enlisted the help of local nurseries who have provided their customers with Keys-friendly landscaping plants, products and advice. The Task Force’s comprehensive partnering approach shows promise for a lasting victory over invasive exotic plants in the state of Florida and serves as a role model for cooperative conservation across the Nation.

West. Although the overall change appears to be positive, there are several notable indications that the condition of public lands has declined in certain areas. Improving the condition of our land is a challenging, but essential, part of the Department’s mission.

## Healthy Lands Initiative

The Department of the Interior launched the Healthy Lands Initiative in 2007 to restore and improve the health and productivity of public lands in the Western United States while providing for managed development and traditional land uses. The goal is to get out in front of, as well as respond to, a multitude of pressures on public lands, such as increased urban-suburban development, increased outdoor recreational activity, rising demands for energy, and impacts from large-scale wildfires and invasive plants, such as cheatgrass.

The BLM, FWS and USGS are working together with State and local partners to achieve results on a landscape-scale across both public and private lands. Working with partners is a key component of the Initiative, and activities are also coordinated with recently completed State wildlife action plans.

The greater sage-grouse presents a particularly significant challenge, with habitat spanning the western United States, and mostly (72 %) under Federal management. The greater sage-grouse occupies only about 55 % of habitat originally available to them and the species has been petitioned several times for listing under the Endangered Species Act. The Initiative seeks to help prevent the need to list the sage-grouse by restoring and conserving key habitat areas throughout its range. Sagebrush habitat also supports significant numbers of additional plants and animals.



*Before treatment*



*After treatment*

The BLM started funding this initiative with a \$3 million down payment in 2007 matched by approximately \$2 million in partner contributions. More than 72,000 acres of shrub and grassland vegetation was improved on BLM land in 2007 through vegetation treatments, such as prescribed burns, mechanical removal of trees, and herbicide treatments of invasive species, such as cheatgrass. In addition, five miles of stream were enhanced and seventeen riparian projects were constructed. Examples of this work include planting willows and cottonwoods and fencing riparian areas. In 2008 and 2009, with a budget increase for BLM coupled with contributions from base funding in other related budget accounts, the BLM plans to improve 428,000 acres of shrub/grass/ woodlands; apply invasive species control treatments on 101,410 acres; enhance 158 miles of streams; complete 219 riparian projects; and reclaim 266 oil wells and associated roads. In addition, over 71,000 acres of fuels treatment will be implemented; 40 shrub/grass/pinyon juniper forest projects will be constructed; ten species recovery/ conservation plans will be implemented to improve habitats for desert tortoise, Peninsular Range Bighorn Sheep, desert pupfish, Armargosa vole, and sage grouse.

**Representative Strategic Plan Measure: Number of land and surface water acres reclaimed or mitigated from effects of past coal mining**

FIGURE 1-12

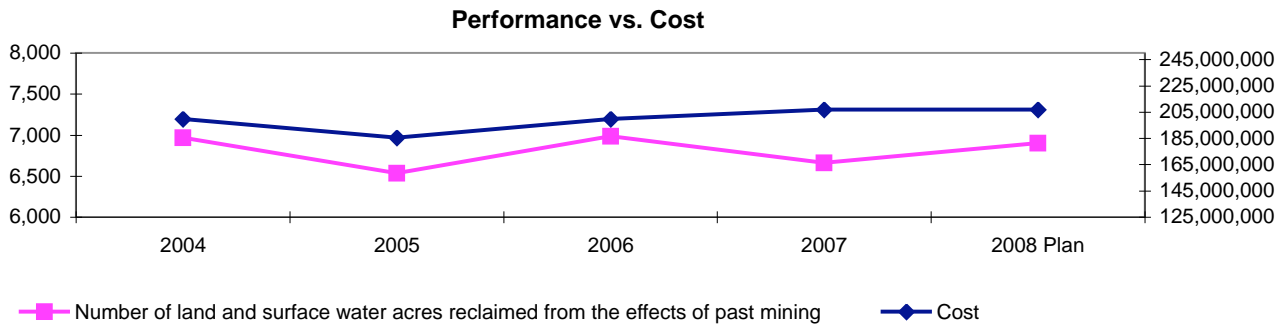


FIGURE 1-13

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 Plan
Number of land and surface water acres reclaimed or mitigated from the effects of natural resource degradation from past coal mining	6,965	6,533	6,983	6,658	6,900
Cost (\$)	199,722,508	185,335,814	199,514,683	206,985,032	206,985,032

A moderate increase is expected in FY 2008 compared to last year in the number of acres reclaimed from the effects of past coal mining. Projects typically take two to three years to implement, and results are usually not realized for several years after funding is applied to a site.

Most all of the land surface mined for coal within the eastern United States and Pacific Northwest was forested until mined. The coal fields of the eastern United States lie within the largest and oldest deciduous forests on Earth. Forests are major sequesters of carbon and producers of oxygen—they are critical to the ecological health of the Earth. Increases in surface coal mining have led to substantial forest fragmentation, loss of habitat for critical species such as the Indiana

Bat and Cerulean Warbler, and increased flooding due to higher peak runoff from reclaimed areas. OSM, in cooperation with several States and other partners, initiated the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative to address effective reforestation of abandoned mine land. ARRI has laid the groundwork for changing perceptions of what constitutes effective reclamation.

We expect a dramatic increase in the number of reclaimed abandoned mine land acres, as the amount of money available to uncertified States, which have yet to conduct coal mine reclamation work, will almost double by FY 2009 as a result of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act Amendments of 2006.





### Return of the American Chestnut

The American chestnut at one time dominated eastern forests, representing a quarter of the trees from Maine to Florida and west of the Ohio Valley. In the first half of the twentieth century, however, the American chestnut tree was decimated by a fungus from Asia. Today, a fully grown American chestnut tree is a rare sight—though these trees are sprouting from roots in the forest, they soon become affected by the chestnut blight and die before maturing.

Under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, OSM oversees the reclamation of surface coal mines, many located in the eastern forests where the American chestnut was once king. OSM is working in partnership with The American Chestnut Foundation and the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative to combine reclamation of mine sites with restoration of the American chestnut. The millions of acres of forest surrounding mine sites are home to wildlife that will spread the chestnut seeds.

For more than 25 years, TACF has worked to develop a blight resistant American chestnut that will restore the tree to the eastern woodlands.



*The photos here show an American chestnut tree that was not destroyed by the fungus and a seedling that was planted on mine spoil.*

**GOAL: Sustain biological communities on DOI managed or influenced lands and waters consistent with obligations and state law regarding the allocation and use of water**

**Representative Strategic Plan Measure: Percent of all migratory bird species that are at healthy and sustainable levels**

FIGURE 1-14

**Performance vs. Cost**

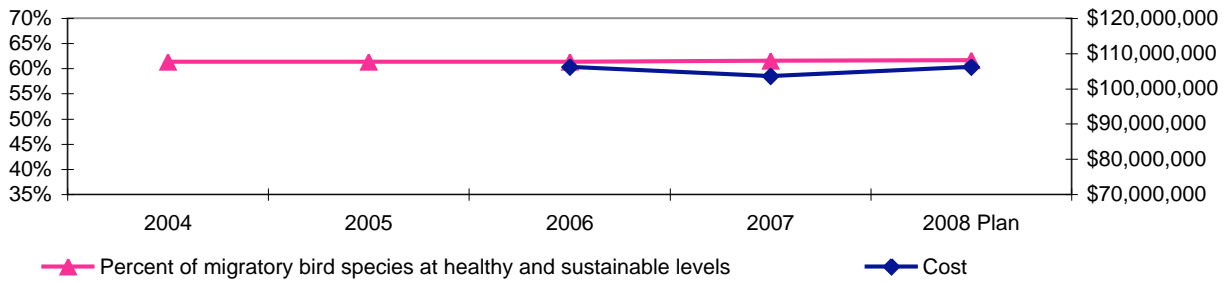


FIGURE 1-15

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 Plan
Performance	61%	61%	61%	62%	62%
Number of migratory bird species at healthy and sustainable levels	561	561	561	561	563
Number of migratory bird species	913	913	913	912	912
Cost (\$)	Not Available	Not Available	106,199,619	103,520,674	106,129,395

Migratory birds are one of North America’s most highly valued natural resources. The Fish and Wildlife Service is the lead Federal agency for migratory bird conservation. About 62 percent of the 912 migratory bird species are at healthy and sustainable levels.

The mission of the Migratory Bird Management Program is to conserve and manage the native species of migratory birds and their habitats, in partnerships with others, to fulfill U.S. treaty obligations and trust responsibilities. The aim is to remove or reduce harmful threats to birds and to identify and develop focused management actions that will result in healthy and sustainable population

levels. The program’s greatest challenge is to continuously increase knowledge of bird population status and trends.

Since 2004, the status of five migratory bird focal species has improved, helping to ensure 62% of our Nation’s migratory birds are at healthy and sustainable levels. The program will continue to work toward achieving the long-term performance goal of an increase of five additional species at healthy and sustainable population levels. However, achievement of this goal is not expected to occur until after several more years of work, as it takes considerable effort over time to improve the population of an entire species.

### Curlew Conservation

The range of the Long-billed Curlew, a large shorebird endemic to the grasslands of North America, has contracted by more than one-third over the last century. Because of continuing conservation concerns, the FWS Migratory Bird Program designated the Long-billed Curlew as a Focal Species for conservation action.

One of the initial conservation steps for Long-billed Curlews involved the design and implementation of a rangewide breeding survey to accurately assess their status. Many partners from Federal and State agencies and nonprofit organizations participated in the FWS-led survey. Results are being published in peer-reviewed scientific journals. Service staff are also conducting a comprehensive conservation assessment, developing a Focal Species Action Plan, and facilitating communication among Long-billed Curlew researchers. Recent North American Wetlands Conservation Act grants and projects through the FWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife program have helped preserve and restore Long-billed Curlew habitat in Montana. The Long-billed Curlew is an icon for grassland protection in developing conservation provisions of the 2007 Farm Bill.



### A Legendary Bird

Albatrosses are birds of legend and extremes. The oldest living North American bird in the wild is a Laysan Albatross that is still breeding at 55 years old. This superlative group of species also boasts the longest wingspan of any bird (over 11 feet). The bird is arguably the longest distance wanderer in the world. Two species of albatross breed in the U.S., the black-footed albatross and the Laysan albatross. Both have been identified as Birds of Conservation Concern by the Department. The



core of their breeding range is the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, where the majority of birds nest on small islands and atolls. The Department is strategically moving forward on securing the future of black-footed and Laysan albatrosses by identifying and addressing threats, including incidental mortality in fishing operations, predation by introduced mammals, reduced reproductive

output due to contaminants, and nesting habitat loss and degradation due to invasive plant species. To guide this work, a comprehensive Conservation Action Plan has



been created and an innovative long-term monitoring program has been launched by the Department to track albatross populations at their breeding colonies. The Department has also teamed up with university researchers to track the long-range movements of albatrosses at sea, using cutting edge geo-location technology. Through this dual focus of conservation on land and at sea, the Department hopes to ensure the future of these magnificent birds which have been described by author Carl Safina as “living poetry upon the ocean.”

*The photos show nesting albatross and an albatross chick.*

**Representative Strategic Plan Measure: Percent of threatened or endangered species that are stabilized or improved**

FIGURE 1-16

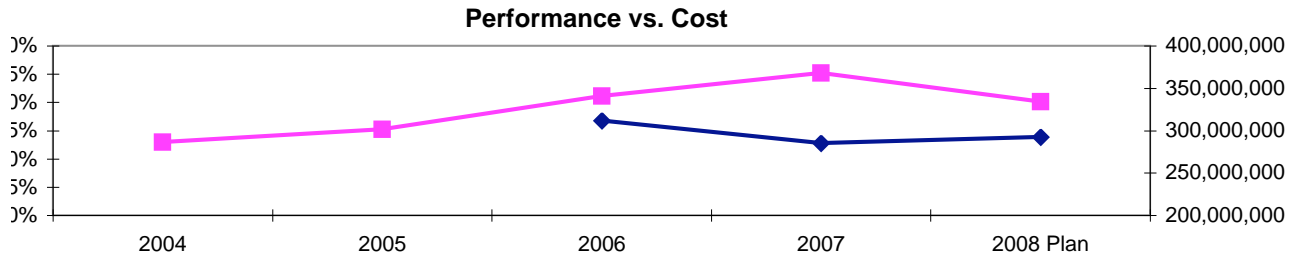


FIGURE 1-17

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 Plan
Performance	33%	35%	41%	45%	40%
T&E Species stabilized/improved	413	442	522	573	509
T&E Species	1,252	1,256	1,269	1,269	1,269
Cost (\$)	Not Available	Not Available	312,030,262	285,255,306	292,443,740

One of the most noble efforts under the Sustaining Biological Communities goal is improving and ultimately recovering threatened and endangered species. The overall pursuit is led by FWS with contributing efforts by BLM and NPS.

Our Department performance has reached the 45 percent range. Restoring a species to the point where it is a secure, self-sustaining component of its ecosystem requires a sizeable investment of effort over time and often involves trying to compensate for threats that have been impacting species for many years. Program performance is showing an overall improving trend, reflecting the successes of the efforts expended over the past years.

In FY 2007, the most notable delistings of endangered or threatened species include the bald eagle, Yellowstone grizzly bear, and Western Great Lakes gray wolf.

FWS is developing a strategic plan for the Endangered Species Program that identifies new long-term outcomes. The new goals will capture candidate conservation efforts to prevent species from becoming listed in the first place.

BLM typically works in conjunction with FWS to directly support the Endangered Species Act by restoring or enhancing acres of habitat that sustain species listed as threatened or endangered. In 2007, BLM began to track the population status of high priority listed species across its managed lands.





### **The Eagle Has Landed**

On June 28, 2007, Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne announced the removal of the bald eagle from the list of threatened and endangered species at a ceremony at the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, DC. After nearly disappearing from most of the United States decades ago, the bald eagle is now flourishing across the Nation and no longer needs the protection of the Endangered Species Act.

Secretary Kempthorne said, "In 1963, the lower 48 states were home to barely 400 nesting pairs of bald eagles. Today, after decades of conservation effort, they are home to some 10,000 nesting pairs, a 25-fold increase in the last 40 years. Based on its dramatic recovery, it is my honor to announce the Department of the Interior's decision to remove the American Bald Eagle from the Endangered Species List."

**Representative Strategic Plan Measure: Percent of baseline acres with invasive plant species that are controlled**

FIGURE 1-18

**Performance vs. Cost**

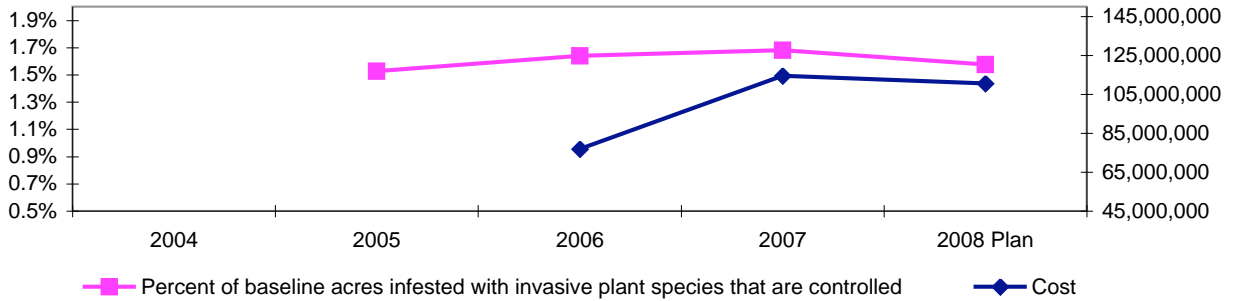


FIGURE 1-19

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 Plan
Performance		1.5%	1.6%	1.7%	1.6%
Number of acres infested with invasive species		615,991	667,640	634,296	594,325
Number of baseline acres infested		40,364,819	40,725,678	37,717,610	37,719,169
Cost (\$)	Not Available	Not Available	76,723,551	114,379,123	110,443,969

Invasive plants include both noxious weeds and other plants that are not native to the environment. For example, BLM considers plants invasive if they have been introduced into an environment where they did not evolve. As a result, they often have no natural enemies to limit their reproduction and spread. Invasive plants can spread into and dominate native or managed plant systems and disrupt the ability of the system to function normally through the aggressive competition for moisture, nutrients, sunlight, and space.

Four Bureaus, the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Reclamation, support the effort to control acreage infested with invasive plant species. Baseline acres with invasive species that are controlled is at 1.7 percent—a result that might seem insignificant until one considers the magnitude of a problem that affects 38 million acres. The good

news is that 90 percent of Federal lands are not significantly infested.

The people power needed to combat exotic invaders is enormous, and the time to gain control of an invasive species is considerable. Our Bureaus are using inventive tactics to tackle the problem. NPS has responded to the invasion with Exotic Plant Management Teams. The seventeen teams, located throughout seven regions, were modeled on the coordinated rapid response approach used in wildland fire fighting.

Confronting invasive species presents a major challenge for the National Wildlife Refuge System managed by FWS. According to 2006 Refuge Annual Performance Planning data, two million acres of refuge lands are infested with invasive plants. While we are spending significant resources to control these populations, only about 14 percent



*Before treatment*

### **Tamarisks Begone!**

Tamarisk (also known as salt cedar) is a hearty shrub-tree from Eurasia brought into the United States early in the last century. Tamarisk was purposely introduced for its superior ability to stabilize river banks for flood control, and to provide tree windbreaks to control wind erosion. Its ability to survive harsh habitats, its prolific reproductive traits, and broad ecological tolerances enabled tamarisk to excel in these roles. Unfortunately, these very same qualities allowed tamarisk to become a major invasive species in the United States. Tamarisk now infests nearly 2 million acres of land in the Western States.

This invasive woody plant can grow into uncontrolled dense stands along waterways and replace native

vegetation with single species tamarisk stands. Tamarisk can reduce habitat quality for wildlife, increases wildfire danger, chokes stream flow and may contribute to increased soil salinity. Tamarisk control and the preservation and restoration of riparian and wetland habitats are high priorities due to the importance these unique habitats play in biological diversity.

Specialists at the Bureau of Reclamation employed methods tailored to the special needs of each tract of tamarisk-infested land. These included the release of tamarisk leaf beetles, as shown below. Reclamation had originally planned to carry out tamarisk control efforts on a total of 550 acres. Additional funds enabled 1,361 acres on 1,911 treated acres to be successfully controlled.



*After treatment*

of infested refuge acres have been treated to date, and only about 5 percent of these have been controlled. Approximately 25,000 acres of refuge lands, in addition to a couple hundred water bodies, have been inventoried and mapped by approximately 200 volunteers trained to use handheld computers

and GPS devices. These volunteers have logged 8,000 hours providing valuable baseline data on the extent of invasive plant infestations on refuges. Refuge System staff work diligently to control invasive plants, but increasingly refuges rely on volunteers to help in the fight.

**GOAL: Protect cultural and natural heritage resources**

**Representative Strategic Plan Measure: Percent of historic structures on DOI inventory in good condition**

FIGURE 1-20

**Performance vs. Cost**

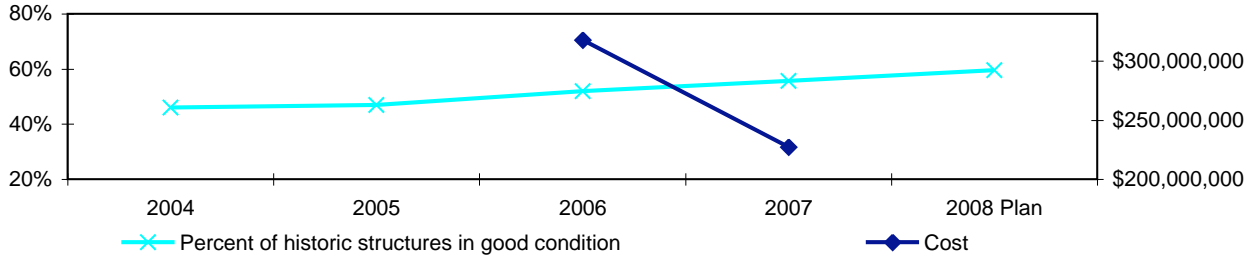


FIGURE 1-21

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 Plan
Performance	46%	47%	52%	56%	60%
Historic structures in good condition	12,102	12,660	13,788	14,825	15,747
Total number of historic structures	26,585	26,879	26,630	26,616	26,428
Cost (\$)	Not Available	Not Available	318,018,235	227,393,649	Not Available

Interior maintains almost 40,000 historic structures among four Bureaus—National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Indian Affairs and Fish and Wildlife Service. Overall performance in bringing the aggregate of structures to good condition has continued to improve. Deterioration over time lowers the status of these sites. Good condition means that a site is intact, structurally sound, stable, and maintains its character and material.

The largest portion of sites is found in our national parks. The increased 2008 funding from the National Park Service Centennial Challenge Initiative will help increase the number of historic structures in good condition to approximately 15,000 of the 26,000 structures located in national parks. The funding from the Centennial Challenge will also favorably impact other NPS cultural assets. NPS maintains over 100,000 archeological sites on park lands, from the Chaco Canyon National Monument in New Mexico, which contains extensive prehistoric pueblo ruins, to Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, home of 240 known archeological sites. Overall NPS

performance has remained relatively steady since 2004, near 70 percent. The additional funding will enable NPS to conduct significant work on almost 3,000 sites.

BLM has implemented the Preserve America principles outlined in the President's 2003 Executive Order 13287, particularly as they relate to using the Department's historic resources to promote economic development through heritage tourism. In stabilizing, protecting, and interpreting standing structures on public land, BLM focuses on those structures that visually and emotionally engage visitors, transporting them to another time and place in our Nation's past. About 77 percent of the historic structures on BLM-managed land are in good condition.

Roughly 1,000 buildings on refuges managed by FWS are considered *historic*: 50 years is the mark for consideration as an historic structure according to the National Historic Preservation Act. In March 2007, FWS launched a small grant program focused on projects that connect history with habitat





### Heritage Asset Partnership

The Heritage Assets Partnership is a standing committee that supports responsible stewardship of the Department's heritage assets. These assets are of historical, natural, cultural, educational or artistic significance, and are expected to be preserved indefinitely. To accomplish that goal, the HAP has helped DOI develop language in the DOI Asset Management Plan for heritage assets, ensuring that the assets are appropriately integrated into the Plan.

Through the HAP, Bureau heritage assets managers develop common strategies and agreements to strengthen management, preservation and care of these irreplaceable resources that memorialize our Nation's past.

*The photo here is one of Interior's assets: the Lookout Studio, built in 1914 by the great American southwestern architect Mary Elizabeth Jane Colter, who designed it to harmonize with its setting in the Grand Canyon.*

management. Several of the recipients are now rehabilitating historic structures and simultaneously restoring or interpreting the habitat around them. In some cases, the Refuge System rehabilitates a historic structure for use as lodging for visitors or for administrative offices. This approach complies with legal mandates to protect these structures and also provides visitor services and reductions in rent costs.

Indian Affairs remains unable to report the condition of its historic structures, as the funding for this activity is minimal. The drop in costs is due to NPS allocating approximately \$90 million less in FY 2007 commensurate with what is needed for the type of projects planned in the coming years.



### Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution

#### Resolving the St. Croix River Crossing Controversy

The Stillwater Lift Bridge, built in 1931, spans the St. Croix National Scenic River and connects Stillwater, Minnesota, to northwestern Wisconsin. The lift bridge is heavily traveled by residents and visitors. Its deteriorating condition, due to its age, caused concern about its safety.

Federal and State transportation agencies decided to remove the bridge and build a new one. However, a permit was not granted as NPS had determined that the project would have a direct and adverse effect on outstanding scenic and recreational values.

In 2001, a group was formed that included representatives from Federal, State and local governments, as well as representatives of local citizen groups, environmental groups, historic preservation groups and local chambers of commerce. These parties held facilitated discussions to craft a solution that would satisfy transportation and environmental interests, as well as local concerns. The solution preserved a historic site and also mitigated impact on wildlife. The parties reached agreement in 2007 to keep the original lift bridge as a pedestrian and bicycle crossing, and to construct a new bridge for vehicular traffic.



**GOAL: Improve the understanding of National ecosystems and resources through integrated interdisciplinary assessment**

**Representative Strategic Plan Measure: Percent of targeted science products that are used by partners for land or resource management decisionmaking**

FIGURE 1-22

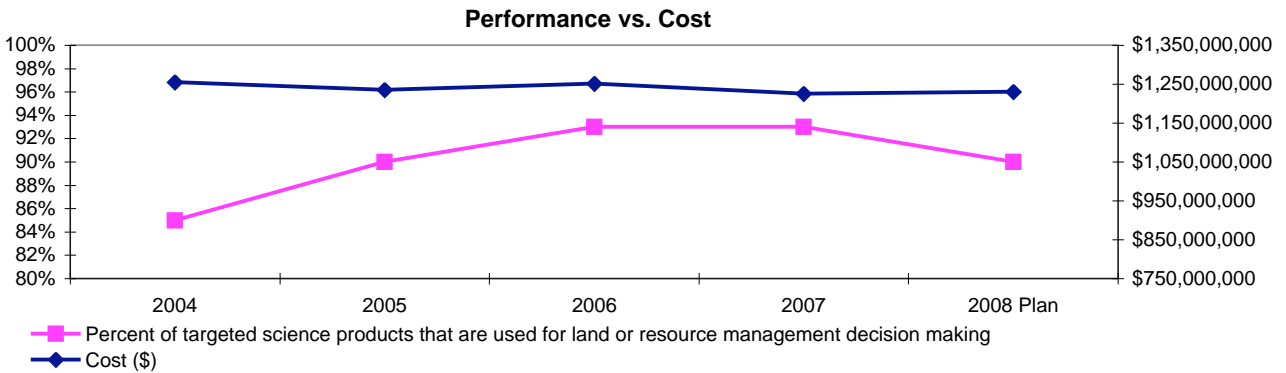


FIGURE 1-23

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 Plan
Percent of targeted science products that are used by partners for land or resource management decision making	85%	90%	93%	93%	90%
Cost (\$)	1,255,351,787	1,235,042,130	1,251,015,129	1,224,776,955	1,230,116,607

The U.S. Geological Survey supports both increased understanding and informed decisionmaking through science. USGS produces scientific assessments and information on the quality and quantity of our Nation's water resources, as well as providing geographic, geospatial, and natural resource data, and conducts multipurpose natural science research. USGS products include water resources monitoring and research, geologic landscapes and coastal assessments; geographic research; land remote sensing; geospatial data; biological research and monitoring programs; and information management and delivery programs. USGS expertise is used in interagency ecosystem initiatives across the United States. Actual performance continues to meet expectations. Costs are indicative of the number and relative size of studies undertaken by USGS in the related disciplines.

River Basin in Wyoming, one of the areas with the largest onshore natural gas reserves in the country. USGS, BLM, and FWS, along with the U.S. Forest Service, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, joined forces to tackle the issues at this complex wildlife-energy interface. USGS brings its portfolio of science expertise to help decisionmakers build and implement adaptive management solutions. USGS hosted a science workshop with over 35 organizations working together to develop a science plan. In 2008, USGS will implement short-term activities to meet immediate needs, as well as longer term research, and will develop tools, models and data management systems to store, retrieve, manage, and use the information collected in developing adaptive management. Our goal is to ensure the long-term viability and sustainability of wildlife and habitats in energy development areas.

In 2007, USGS redirected funding to support the Healthy Lands Initiative with a focus on The Green

### Salt in the River of Grass

#### Understanding Everglades Salinity for Ecosystem Recovery

The interplay of freshwater and saltwater in Florida's Everglades is key to the habitats of creatures from American alligators to spiny lobsters to oysters. USGS scientists in the Ecosystem History of South Florida's Estuaries Project are involved in an effort to understand the dynamics of salinity in the South Florida Everglades, with an eye toward ecosystem recovery. Working closely with colleagues from Federal, State, and local agencies on the Southern Estuaries subteam of RECOVER (REstoration COordination and VERification), the team has established performance measures and targets for restoration—critical factors used in making and validating management decisions regarding the region. RECOVER is part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan “responsible for linking science and the tools of science to set system-wide planning, evaluation and assessment tasks.”



*This photo shows core collection in the southwest coastal area of Everglades National Park.*



### Preserve America

The Preserve America Initiative began in March 2003. The Preserve America Executive Order, which supports the National Historic Preservation Act, recommit the Federal government to historic preservation and encourages Federal agencies to care for heritage assets in Federal stewardship. Interior serves in a leadership role with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

In addition, the Initiative aims to increase awareness of cultural and natural heritage assets and build support for integrating these historic treasures into contemporary community life. Preserve America celebrates the history of each community in the country.

The principal components of Preserve America include:

- ◆ Preserve America Community designation program, which recognizes communities that celebrate and protect their heritage, use their historic assets for economic development and community revitalization, and encourage people to experience and appreciate historic resources through educational and heritage tourism efforts.
- ◆ Preserve America Presidential Awards, started in 2004, have recognized four outstanding efforts annually to preserve and share heritage assets.
- ◆ Preserve America Grants, administered by the NPS, provide funding on a matching basis to help communities develop resource management strategies and sound business practices for continued preservation and use of heritage assets.

To date, there are over 500 designated Preserve America Communities in all 50 states, and almost \$10 million has been awarded to nearly 140 projects throughout the country. For more information, please visit <[www.preserveamerica.gov](http://www.preserveamerica.gov)>