



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Director of Budget

**SUMMARY: HOUSE COMMITTEE ACTION ON THE FISCAL YEAR  
2006 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL**

The House Appropriations Committee reported the fiscal year 2006 Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriation Bill on May 10, 2005. House floor action is expected to take place on May 19.

**Funding Overview**

For all programs funded in the bill, the House Committee recommends \$26.16 billion, \$434.8 million or 1.7 percent above the President's budget request of \$25.7 billion.

For Department of the Interior programs, the Committee bill provides \$9.81 billion in regular 2006 appropriations. This is \$26.6 million or 0.3 percent more than the President's budget and \$55.5 million or 0.6 percent above the 2005 enacted level, excluding emergency fire and disaster supplementals.

Highlights of the Committee bill include the following:

**Cooperative Conservation Programs:** The 2006 President's budget included \$379.7 million for cooperative conservation programs in the Department of the Interior (excluding LWCF State grants), an increase of \$75.1 million above 2005. The House Committee provides \$315.1 million for these programs, \$10.5 million more than 2005, but a reduction of \$64.6 million from the request.

- The House bill includes \$23.7 million for Landowner Incentive grants and \$7.4 million for Private Stewardship grants. The budget request included \$40.0 million for Landowner Incentive grants and \$10.0 million for Private Stewardship grants.
- The bill provides \$40.0 million for North American Wetlands Conservation fund grants, \$9.9 million below the request; \$84.4 million for Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund grants, \$4.4 million above the request; and, \$65.0 million for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants, \$9.0 million below the request.
- The bill provides \$16.7 million for challenge cost share programs. This is \$28.1 million below the request. While the House Committee bill does not fund the \$21.5 million request for conservation challenge cost share programs, report language indicates support for the concept and approves the use of the traditional challenge cost share funding to encompass resource protection.

**LWCF:** The 2006 budget request for the Land and Water Conservation Fund included \$107.2 million for BLM, FWS, and NPS Federal land acquisition. The budget proposes

no funding for Stateside LWCF grants, providing \$1.6 million for administration of prior grants. The House Committee provides 26.5 million for Federal land acquisition. This funds acquisition management and emergency and hardship acquisitions, but provides no funding for new line item acquisition projects. The Committee accepts the budget's proposal for Stateside grants.

**Trust Programs:** The President's budget included a total of \$591.4 million for trust programs in BIA and the Office of the Special Trustee. The House Committee bill provides a total of \$515.5 million. This is a decrease of \$75.8 million below the request. The House provides for all the increases requested, except for historical accounting. The House restores a \$2.0 million decrease in the BIA endangered species program.

The House Committee bill includes language limiting historical accounting to \$58.0 million, a decrease of \$77.0 million from the request, and the same as the 2005 level. The bill provides \$34.5 million for Indian Land Consolidation, the requested level and the same as 2005.

**BIA School Construction:** The House Committee mark of \$284.1 million is an increase of \$52.0 million over the request of \$232.1 million. Of the increase, \$32.0 million is provided for replacement school construction projects and \$19.0 million is provided for additional major school facilities and improvement and repair projects.

**Wildland Fire/Healthy Forests Initiative:** The House Committee funds the Wildland Fire Management program at \$761.6 million, a \$5.0 million increase over the request level of \$756.6 million. The bill supports the requested program increases of \$6.9 million for preparedness, \$7.8 million for the hazardous fuels reduction, and \$15.8 million for suppression. The bill does not support the Administration's proposal to abolish the Rural Fire Assistance program (-\$9.9 million) and funds the program at \$5.0 million in 2006.

**Heritage Programs:** The House Committee does not fund the Administration's request of \$12.5 million for the Preserve America Initiative. The House provides \$15 million for Heritage areas, an increase of \$10 million above the budget, and funds the Save America's Treasures program at \$30 million, an increase of \$15 million.

**Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation:** The House Committee funds the Abandoned Mine Land program at \$188.0 million, the same as the request. The House does not include the requested \$58.0 million for the Administration's proposed payments to certified States and Tribes.

The House includes bill language for a one-time transfer of the unappropriated balance of funds in the Rural Abandoned Mine Program portion of the AML fund to the Federal share allocation, to be used for emergencies and other high-priority Federal obligations. The RAMP portion of the fund is subject to appropriation and has not been used in ten years. The transfer increases the amount available for continuation of the State and tribal AML grant program in the event that the AML fee is not extended beyond its current expiration date, September 30, 2005.

**Operating Programs:** The House funds the Operations of National Parks account at \$1.8 billion, \$20.1 million above the budget request level. The House Committee bill provides an across-the-board increase of \$30.0 million for park base operations in addition to the \$22.0 million increase requested in the budget for park base operations (primarily to fixed cost increases). The increase for park base funding is partially offset within the park operating account by reductions in repair and rehabilitation (-\$900,000), conservation challenge cost share grants (-\$7.9 million), and information technology (-\$773,000).

The House bill funds BLM's primary operating accounts at \$955.9 million, \$4.4 million below the request. Increases for Congressional earmarks are more than offset by the Committee's reductions of \$6.6 million for the traditional challenge cost share grants program and \$6.0 million for the conservation challenge cost share grants.

The House provides \$1.0 billion for FWS resource management, an increase of \$19.7 million above the budget request. The House provides the requested increases for endangered species listing and law enforcement; \$1.5 million over the request level for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program; \$3.5 million less than the request level for migratory bird management activities; and \$1.8 million less than request for the coastal program.

**Law Enforcement:** The President's budget included \$613.4 million for the Department's law enforcement and security programs. The House adds \$10.3 million to the request of \$613.4 million, providing an additional \$2.0 million to NPS for new Park Police recruit classes and \$8.5 million to BIA for law enforcement needs in Indian Country. The request for the Department's Office of Law Enforcement and Security is decreased by \$700,000.

**LANDSAT:** The House funds the \$12.0 million request to cover the Landsat 7 operations in 2005 and 2006 and \$7.5 million for development of an upgraded ground processing system needed as part of the Landsat Data Continuity Mission.

**PILT:** The President's budget request included \$200.0 million for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program. The House Committee mark provides \$230.0 million for PILT, an increase of \$30.0 million above the President's request and \$3.2 million above 2005.

**Fixed Costs:** The President's budget included \$158.6 million for fixed-cost increases, including \$115.7 million for higher pay costs. The House fully funds the fixed costs request.

More details on funding levels and legislative provisions included in the bill follow. A comparison of funding levels for bureaus and offices is provided as Attachment 1. Attachment 2 provides a comparison of key numbers. Attachment 3 and 4 provide a summary of land acquisition and construction.

## Funding Details by Major Activity

### Cooperative Conservation Programs

Program	05 Enacted	06 Budget	06 House	House +/- 05 Enacted	House +/- 06 Budget
<b>COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE</b>					
CCI Conservation Challenge Cost Share					
Bureau of Land Management	0	6,000	0	0	-6,000
Fish and Wildlife Service	0	7,600	0	0	-7,600
National Park Service	0	7,871	<u>0</u>	0	-7,871
Subtotal	<u>0</u>	<u>21,471</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-21,471</u>
Traditional Challenge Cost Share Grants					
Bureau of Land Management	7,396	13,996	7,396	0	-6,600
Fish and Wildlife Service	4,339	4,400	4,400	+61	0
National Park Service				0	
Traditional	2,416	2,416	2,416	0	0
Lewis & Clark	<u>4,927</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>-2,427</u>	0
Subtotal	<u>19,078</u>	<u>23,312</u>	<u>16,712</u>	<u>-2,366</u>	<u>-6,600</u>
Other CCI Programs					
Fish and Wildlife Service					
Coastal Program	11,740	14,900	13,100	+1,360	-1,800
Migratory Bird Joint Ventures	10,232	12,900	10,567	+335	-2,333
Partners for Fish & Wildlife	47,534	52,197	53,727	+6,193	+1,530
Departmental Management					
Take Pride in America	<u>490</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>+10</u>	<u>-500</u>
TOTAL, CCI	<u>89,074</u>	<u>125,780</u>	<u>94,606</u>	<u>+5,532</u> 6.2%	<u>-31,174</u> -24.8%
<b>OTHER SUPPORTING CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAMS</b>					
Fish and Wildlife Service					
Landowner Incentive Program	21,694	40,000	23,700	+2,006	-16,300
Private Stewardship Grants	6,903	10,000	7,386	+483	-2,614
N. Am. Wetlands Conservation Fund	37,472	49,949	40,000	+2,528	-9,949
Coop. Endangered Species Conserv. Fun	80,462	80,000	84,400	+3,938	+4,400
State & Tribal Wildlife Grants	<u>69,028</u>	<u>74,000</u>	<u>65,000</u>	<u>-4,028</u>	<u>-9,000</u>
Subtotal	<u>215,559</u>	<u>253,949</u>	<u>220,486</u>	<u>+4,927</u> +2.3%	<u>-33,463</u> -13.2%
TOTAL CCI AND OTHER SUPPORTING CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAMS	<u>304,633</u>	<u>379,729</u>	<u>315,092</u>	<u>10,459</u>	<u>-64,637</u>

The President's budget included \$379.7 million for Cooperative Conservation Programs. Overall, the House provides \$326.1 million, a reduction of \$64.6 million below the request, but \$10.5 million above 2005.

**Challenge Cost Share.** The House eliminates funding for the conservation portion of the Challenge Cost Share program, requested at \$21.5 million. However, report language approves the use of traditional challenge cost share programs for resource projects. The traditional Challenge Cost Share program is funded at \$16.7 million, a decrease of \$6.64 million from the request.

**Coastal Program.** The House provides \$13.1 million for the Coastal program. This is \$1.8 million less than the 2006 request, but \$1.4 million more than 2005.

**Joint Ventures.** The \$10.6 million provided by the House for the Migratory Bird Joint Venture program is \$335,000 above 2005, but \$2.3 million less than the \$12.9 million request.

**Partners for Fish and Wildlife.** The House provides \$53.7 million for Partners for Fish and Wildlife, an increase of \$1.5 million above the request and \$6.2 million above 2005.

**Take Pride in America.** The House provides \$500,000 or one-half of the \$1.0 million request for Take Pride in America, essentially level with 2005.

**Landowner Incentive Program/Private Stewardship Grants.** The President's budget included \$40.0 million for the Landowner Incentive program and \$10.0 million for the Private Stewardship Grants program. The Committee provides \$23.7 million and \$7.4 million, respectively, for these programs. This is \$18.9 million less than the request level.

**Fish and Wildlife Service Grants.** The President's budget requested \$212.2 million for FWS conservation grants. The Committee reduces funding to \$199.3 million, a \$12.9 million decrease compared to the requested level and an increase of \$2.7 million compared to the 2005 enacted level.

- **Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund:** The President's budget included \$80.0 million for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund, \$462,000 below 2005. The House Committee funds CESCOF grants at \$84.4 million, a \$4.4 million increase above the request. Bill and report language provides that only species recovery land acquisition and HCP land acquisition funding shall be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
- **North American Wetlands Conservation Fund:** The budget request included \$49.9 million for the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund, a \$12.5 million increase over 2005. The Committee mark provides \$40.0 million, \$2.5 million above the 2005 level, but \$9.9 million below the President's request. The bill language does not allow for funding to be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund as proposed by the Administration.
- **State and Tribal Wildlife Grants:** The budget requested \$74.0 million for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants, an increase of \$5.0 million from 2005. The Committee provides \$65.0 million, a decrease of \$9.0 million compared to the request, and \$4.0 million less than the 2005 enacted level. The Committee earmarks \$6.0 million for the Tribal grant portion of the program.

The House Committee includes report language stating that it expects each State and Territory to submit its comprehensive wildlife conservation plan on time. Bill language provides that, until a State or Territory has submitted an approved plan, it will not be eligible for funding from this program. In addition, the report directs the FWS to notify each State or Territory as soon as possible after its receipt as to whether or not the plan has been approved. Further, the report states that funds from this program are to be used by States to supplement, not substitute for,

existing State revenue sources and States are to prioritize the use of these funds for species with the greatest conservation need.

### Stateside LWCF Grants

\$000				House +/-	House +/-
	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>	<u>House</u>	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>
Grants	89,736	0	0	-89,736	0
Administration	<u>1,479</u>	<u>1,587</u>	<u>1,587</u>	<u>+108</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	91,215	1,587	1,587	-89,628	0
				-98.3%	0

The Administration did not request funding for new LWCF State grants in 2006. The President's budget request did include \$1.6 million for the administration of existing grants. The House funds the program at the President's request.

### Federal LWCF Land Acquisition

				House +/-	House +/-
	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>	<u>House</u>	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>
BLM	11,192	13,350	3,817	-7,375	-9,533
FWS	37,005	40,992	14,937	-22,068	-26,055
NPS	<u>55,134</u>	<u>52,880</u>	<u>7,834</u>	<u>-47,300</u>	<u>-45,046</u>
Total	103,331	107,222	26,588	-76,743	-80,634
				-74.3%	-75.2%

The President's budget request included \$107.2 million for Federal land acquisition, an increase of \$3.9 million above 2005, including \$70.7 million for land acquisition projects.

The House does not provide funds for land acquisition projects but provides funding for emergency acquisitions, inholdings, exchanges, and bureau administrative costs at essentially the request level.

The House Committee provides a total of \$7.8 to NPS, which includes \$17.7 million for acquisition administration, inholdings and exchanges, and emergencies and hardships. These amounts are offset by a reduction of \$9.9 million prior year balances available from the Cat Island, Florida and Gulf Islands National Seashore, Mississippi, projects.

A detailed list of land acquisition projects requested in the President's budget is included in Attachment 3.

### Land Management Operations

#### National Park Service Operations

\$000				House +/-	House +/-
	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>	<u>House</u>	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>
ONPS	1,683,564	1,734,053	1,754,199	+70,635	+20,146
				+4.2%	+1.2%

The President's 2006 budget request provided an increase of \$50.5 million for the Operations of the National Park System account. The request included an increase of \$43.0 million for fixed costs, \$3.4 million for repair and rehabilitation projects targeted to improve the condition of historic buildings, \$5.4 million for investments in information technology, \$4.9 million to expand vital signs inventorying and monitoring within the Natural Resource Challenge, and \$400,000 for Jamestown 2007. The request for park base operations is \$1.069 billion, \$22.0 million above the 2005 enacted level.

The House mark provides \$1.8 billion for the ONPS account, an increase of \$20.1 million above the President's Budget. An across-the-board increase of \$30.0 million above the Administration's request is provided for park base operations. FBMS, pay, and other fixed costs are fully funded at the request level. The House provides requested increases of \$4.9 million for vital signs inventorying and monitoring and \$400,000 for Jamestown 2007. The House mark also includes requested increases of \$1.7 million for active directory, \$1.2 million for ESN, \$578,000 for IT intrusion detection, \$525,000 to establish an IT test lab, \$750,000 for an IT security plan, and \$500,000 to upgrade IT equipment. The \$310,000 requested to improve the oversight of partnership projects is funded within the Construction account.

The House accepts the proposed reductions of \$1.3 million for fleet management reform, \$1.3 million resulting from space consolidations, \$1.4 million for management efficiencies, \$644,000 for IT certification and accreditation, \$87,000 for E-Government initiatives, \$247,000 for Partnership for Wild and Scenic Rivers, and \$2.4 million for Lewis and Clark challenge cost share. The House also includes the following reductions to the President's budget: -\$900,000 for repair and rehabilitation of historic structures, -\$7.9 million for the CCI Challenge Cost Share, -\$500,000 for IT incident level three reporting, -\$212,000 for IT messaging improvements, and -\$61,000 for digitization support for project management.

Report language directs NPS to provide the same level of funding provided in 2005 for the Johnstown Area Heritage Association Museum and the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve, and to continue this funding in the operations account in future years. The Committee also expects NPS to allow the town of Blowing Rock, North Carolina, to continue its water usage while moving forward with the needed steps to provide a permanent remedy to this long-standing issue. The Committee requests a status report no later than March 1, 2006.

**NPS Natural Resource Challenge**

\$000				House +/-	House +/-
	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>	<u>House</u>	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>
Natural Resource Challenge	76,552	77,552	77,552	+1,000 +1.3%	0 0

The 2006 budget request included a total of \$77.6 million for the Natural Resource Challenge, which is an increase of \$1.0 million from the 2005 enacted level. This increase included an additional \$4.9 million to complete funding for vital signs monitoring networks offset by a decrease of \$3.9 million for the Natural Resource Preservation

program. The House Committee funds the Natural Resource Challenge consistent with the request.

**Everglades Restoration**

\$000				House +/-	
	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>	<u>House</u>	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>
Everglades	65,465	83,509	83,509	18,044	0
				+27.6%	0

In the 2006 President’s budget, total Interior Everglades funding was proposed at \$83.5 million, an increase of \$18.0 million over the 2005 enacted level. The increase from the 2005 level was mainly attributable to a \$25.0 million request to continue the Modified Water Delivery project. The House funds the Administration’s request.

The House report states that the Committee expects that the annual report required by P.L. 108-108 summarizing the status of the water entering the refuge and Everglades NP will be submitted expeditiously and on-time in the future as the report is long overdue. The House report also expresses concern that the strong intergovernmental partnership that is necessary for restoration success in the Everglades is not apparent, and further directs the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of the Army, to submit a report by December 31, 2005 on the status of the Everglades projects now underway.

The Committee also directs the Secretary of the Interior to provide a more detailed report from the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force identifying and prioritizing land acquisitions that are necessary to achieve natural system restoration goals. The Task Force report should identify funding strategies involving innovative partnerships as well as timeframes, and should be submitted to the Committee no later than December 31, 2005.

The Department is directed to submit a report by December 31, 2005 describing the scientific research projects to be funded in the National Park Service and the U.S. Geological Survey with the 2006 appropriations. The report should provide details for each research project, including how they are consistent with the Department’s Science Plan, and how they are filling gaps in scientific information and supporting the decisions that need to be made.

Finally, the House mark includes report language directing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide the Committee with the A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge’s annual and quarterly reports summarizing the implementation of the additional monitoring and modeling at the refuge.



## U.S. Park Police

\$000				House +/-	House +/-
	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>	<u>House</u>	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>
Park Police	80,076	80,411	82,411	+2,335 +2.9%	+2,000 +2.5%

The President's budget requested \$80.4 million for the U.S. Park Police, an increase of \$335,000 above the 2005 enacted level. The request fully funded fixed costs for the budget year and eliminated \$986,000 in one-time funding for the 2005 Presidential inaugural.

The House mark provides \$82.4 million for USPP operations, an increase of \$2.0 million above the request and \$2.3 million above the enacted level. The House includes increases from the enacted level to fully fund pay and fixed costs and new recruit classes.

The Committee directs the U.S. Park Police to submit a final report no later than January 16, 2006, detailing how it has implemented each recommendation in the original NAPA report. If certain recommendations have not been agreed to, a full explanation is required.

## Fish and Wildlife Service Operations

\$000				House +/-	House +/-
	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>	<u>House</u>	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>
Resource Management	962,940	985,563	1,005,225	+42,285 +4.4%	+19,662 +2.0%

The President's budget funded FWS operations at \$985.6 million, a \$22.6 million increase from the 2005 enacted level. Within this funding level the budget proposed key program increases including: \$2.2 million for listing activities; \$2.1 million for refuge law enforcement activities; \$3.1 million for migratory bird management activities; \$4.2 million for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program; and \$3.0 million for the Coastal program.

For FWS operations, the House Committee provides \$1.0 billion, \$19.7 million more than the request and \$42.3 million above the 2005 level, including the following:

### Ecological Services:

- The Committee provides an increase of \$3.7 million over the 2005 enacted level for the Endangered Species program. This is \$6.8 million more than the President's request. Details are provided below in the Endangered Species section of this document.
- The Committee funds an increase of \$6.2 million over the 2005 enacted level for the Partners program, a \$1.5 million increase over the 2006 request. The Committee bill only provides \$1.3 million of the requested \$5.3 million increase for Klamath Basin restoration activities. Earmarks include:
  - +\$1.4 million for Washington regional fisheries enhancement groups;

- +\$700,000 for environmental data quality and access for Washington salmon recovery efforts;
  - +\$180,000 for New Jersey meadowlands technical assistance;
  - +\$750,000 for restoration in the Tunkhannock, Bentley, and Bowman's Creek watersheds in Pennsylvania;
  - +\$500,000 for fish passage improvements on the west branch of the Susquehanna River;
  - +\$500,000 for the Susquehanna River headwaters multiple use wetlands;
  - +\$500,000 for Georgia streambank restoration;
  - +\$500,000 for nutria eradication at Blackwater NWR; and
  - +\$500,000 for a study of Colorado River flow and aquatic habitats.
- The Committee provides an increase of \$1.1 million over the President's request for the Project Planning program. Changes compared to the request include:
    - +\$270,000 for the FERC review/relicensing program;
    - +\$550,000 for the Middle Rio Grande Initiative;
    - +\$170,000 to restore the base program; and
    - +\$100,000 to continue operations at the Cedar City, UT ecological services office.
  - The Committee provides a net decrease of \$1.8 million compared to the President's request for the Coastal program. This still provides an increase of \$1.4 million over the 2005 level. Changes to the request include:
    - -\$2.5 million for the proposed general program increase; thereby reducing the increase to \$1.3 million above the enacted level;
    - +\$200,000 for the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group;
    - +\$200,000 for Long Live the Kings; and
    - +\$300,000 to restore funding for the Tampa and Florida panhandle field offices.
  - The Committee rejects the budget proposal to reduce the environmental contaminants program and restores \$2.7 million. It provides a \$285,000 increase above the enacted level.

### **Refuges and Wildlife**

- The Committee provides a net increase of \$500,000 over the President's request for the National Wildlife Refuge System, for a total of \$394.4 million. Report language urges the FWS and the Department to reaffirm their commitment to addressing the critical operations and maintenance backlog needs of the National Wildlife Refuge System. In 2005, the FWS was directed to provide an update on the refuge system minimum staffing analysis by January 15, 2005. The Committee expects to receive this prior to 2006 conference action. The Committee also encourages the FWS to continue to consult with NOAA regarding the operation of Vieques NWR. The report does not address the proposed budget restructuring.
- Changes to the refuge system budget from the request include:
  - -\$7.6 million for the cooperative conservation portion of the Challenge Cost Share program;
  - +\$1.4 million for Spartina grass control at Willapa Bay NWR;
  - +\$1.0 million for cooperative projects with friends groups on invasive species control;

- +\$1.1 million to restore base operations programs that support wildlife and habitat management activities;
  - +\$2.0 million to continue minimum staffing implementation;
  - +\$2.0 million for the visitor facilities enhancement program; and
  - +\$600,000 to restore base operations programs that support visitor services.
- The Committee provides a total of \$38.2 million for migratory bird management activities. This is a reduction of \$3.5 million from the President's request, including a \$1.5 million reduction for conservation and monitoring and a \$2.3 million reduction for joint ventures. This level of funding is \$2.7 million above the enacted level. The report states that this increase above the enacted level should be used mainly to fill critical staff vacancies. Changes to the request include:
    - -\$750,000 for focal species management;
    - -\$200,000 for surveys and monitoring;
    - -\$200,000 for population and habitat assessments;
    - -\$1.4 million for new joint ventures;
    - -\$800,000 for existing joint ventures; and
    - -\$100,000 for the national administration of joint ventures.
  - The Committee provides \$57.8 million for Law Enforcement program activities. This is a \$2.2 million increase over the 2005 enacted level and a \$200,000 increase over the requested level. The increase over the requested level is to partially restore the proposed fleet management reduction.

**Fisheries:**

- The Committee provides \$118.8 million for Fisheries, an increase of \$1.1 million above the request and \$3.6 million above the enacted level. The Committee includes a significant number of Fisheries related items in report language:
  - The FWS should continue and intensify its efforts to collect reimbursements for fisheries mitigation efforts and use those funds to address habitat restoration and conservation. The Committee expects that the FY 2007 budget justification should include an update on this.
  - The Committee commends the program's efforts over the past several years to collect, correct, and standardize data on program spending and to identify critical operational shortfalls. The Committee expects the fisheries program to address inequities in field station funding when allocating base budget increase.
  - The Committee is pleased with the development of the National Fish Habitat Initiative. Of the \$1.8 million provided for this initiative, 80% should be used to implement on-the-ground, cost-shared habitat restoration projects and 20% should be used to support continued development of the National Fish Habitat Plan.
  - The Committee is concerned about the number of depleted populations of Federal trust species. The Committee is pleased with the efforts of the fisheries program to address this need, and expects that a portion of the recommended base budget increase will be used for this purpose.

- The Committee provides \$58.9 million for Hatchery Operations and Maintenance, a \$899,000 increase over the President's request. Funding changes to the request include:
  - -\$600,000 for hatchery operations;
  - +\$1.5 million for hatchery maintenance to partially restore the proposed whirling disease reduction proposed in the budget.
- For Fish and Wildlife Management, the Committee provides \$59.9 million, a \$10.2 million increase over the President's request. Changes from the request include:
  - +\$1.2 million to restore a proposed general activities reduction;
  - +\$1.8 million for the national fish habitat initiative;
  - +\$1.7 million for fish passage;
  - +\$500,000 for the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration program;
  - +\$2.0 million for Washington State salmon mass marking of hatchery fish;
  - +\$500,000 for Washington state salmon mass marking of hatchery fish, including \$250,000 for the hatchery scientific review group and \$250,000 for Long Live the Kings;
  - +\$250,000 for a regional mark processing center;
  - +\$350 for Yukon River salmon treaty programs; and
  - +\$2.0 million for marine mammals.

**General Administration:**

- The Committee mark of \$135.2 million for General Administration is an increase of \$1.0 million above the President's request. Changes from the request include:
  - +\$2.0 million to restore the proposed general operations/management efficiencies reductions;
  - -\$375,000 reduction to the increase requested for NCTC operations;
  - +\$375,000 for NCTC maintenance;
  - +\$300,000 for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation;
  - -\$1.5 million reduction to the increase requested for the Science Excellence Initiative;
  - -\$200,000 for International wildlife trade; and
  - +\$400,000 for the Wildlife Without Borders program within International Affairs.
- Committee report language notes that the Committee has recommended bill language prohibiting the use of funds for Safecom and Disaster.gov activities. The Committee directs that the funding requested by the Administration for these activities be redirected to cover program shortfalls associated with the underestimation of administrative costs when the Cost Allocation Methodology funds were realigned to programs in 2005.

## FWS Endangered Species Program

\$000				House +/-	House +/-
	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>	<u>House</u>	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>
Candidate Conservation	9,255	8,252	8,852	-403	+600
Listing	15,960	18,130	18,130	+2,170	0
Consult/HCP	48,129	49,484	49,484	+1,355	0
Recovery	<u>69,870</u>	<u>64,243</u>	<u>70,443</u>	<u>+573</u>	<u>+6,200</u>
Total	143,214	140,109	146,909	+3,695	+6,800
				+2.6%	+4.9%

The President's budget included a total of \$140.1 million for the endangered species program, a \$3.1 million reduction from the 2005 level. This request included \$18.1 million for the listing program, an increase of almost \$2.2 million. The Committee provides a total of \$146.9 million for the endangered species program, a \$6.8 million increase compared to the request and an increase of \$3.7 million compared to the enacted level.

- In the Candidate Conservation program, the Committee provides a \$600,000 increase compared to the requested level. Changes to the President's request include:
  - +\$300,000 for Idaho sage grouse;
  - +\$300,000 for the Fisher (*Martes pennanti*).
- In the Listing program, the Committee provides \$18.1 million, of which \$12.9 million is for critical habitat designations. This is equal to the requested level; both for the entire listing program as well as the critical habitat designation portion of the program.
- In the Consultation program, the Committee provides \$49.5 million, which is equal to the request level. Report language states that the Committee has retained the proposed general increase for the consultation program and expects the Service to use this increase to address the backlog of critical consultations needs such as those associated with the American burying beetle in Oklahoma and other species in California.
- In the Recovery program, the Committee provides \$70.4 million, an increase of \$6.2 million compared to the President's request. Changes to the request include:
  - +\$1.0 million for the Platte River recovery program;
  - +\$1.5 million for wolf monitoring in Idaho. This includes:
    - \$460,000 for the Nez Perce Tribe;
    - \$940,000 for the Idaho Office of Species Conservation; and
    - \$100,000 for the Service's Snake River Basin Office;
  - +\$200,000 for a gabbro soils inventory in California to conduct a survey to evaluate the degree of protection afforded five plant species relative to recovery plan targets;
  - +\$2.0 million for Pacific Salmon grants through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation;
  - +\$700,000 for the Upper Colorado River recovery program;
  - +\$500,000 for Florida manatee protection and recovery; and
  - +\$300,000 for the Peregrine Fund for Northern Aplomado falcon recovery activities.

### Multinational Species Conservation Fund and Neotropical Migratory Birds

\$000				House +/-	House +/-
	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>	<u>House</u>	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>
Multi Species Conserv	5,719	8,300	5,900	+181	-2,400
Neotropical Birds	<u>3,944</u>	<u>[4,000]</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>+56</u>	<u>+4,000</u>
Total	9,663	8,300	9,900	+237	+1,600
				+2.5%	+19.3%

The budget request funded the Multinational Species Conservation Fund at \$8.3 million, including \$4.0 million for Neotropical Migratory Birds. The Committee bill funds multi-species conservation activities at \$5.9 million plus a separate appropriation of \$4.0 for Neotropical Migratory bird grants. The \$5.9 million includes \$1.4 million each for African elephant conservation, rhinoceros and tiger conservation, Asian elephant conservation, and great ape conservation. It also includes \$300,000 for marine turtle conservation.

### Bureau of Land Management Operations

\$000				House +/-	House +/-
	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>	<u>House</u>	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>
Mgt of Lands & Resources	836,826	850,177	845,783	+8,957	-4,394
O&C Grant Lands	<u>107,497</u>	<u>110,070</u>	<u>110,070</u>	<u>+2,573</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	944,323	960,247	955,853	+11,530	-4,394
				+1.2%	-0.5%

The 2006 President's budget requested \$960.2 million for BLM operations, a net increase of \$15.9 million over the 2005 enacted level of \$944.3 million. The major funding increases included in the budget request were aimed at ongoing bureau and departmental priorities, including improving forest health and increasing timber production, conserving and restoring sagebrush habitat, and eradicating invasive weeds. The budget included a significant boost in funding to improve recreational experiences on public lands and enhance BLM's ability to manage and mitigate the impacts of OHV use. The budget partially funded many of these priorities through a requested increase of \$6.6 million in the traditional challenge cost share program in order to leverage the federal dollars with matching partner contributions. The budget also proposed a \$6.0 million increase for the conservation cost share projects.

The budget eliminated funding for most Congressional add-ons. It proposed a decrease in the Wild Horse and Burro Management program to reflect additional efficiencies that have been achieved in the program. The budget also proposed a reduction in appropriations for the Energy and Minerals Management program that would be more than offset by increased receipts resulting from a new cost recovery proposal.

The House provides \$955.9 million for BLM operations, \$4.4 million below the request and \$11.5 million over the 2005 enacted level. The House rejects the \$6.0 million request for conservation challenge cost share grants. The House also rejects the \$6.6 million

requested increase for traditional challenge cost share grants. In doing so, the House provides only partial support for the sagebrush, weed, and recreation-related increases requested in the budget. Specific changes from the President's Budget follow:

- In Land Resources, the Committee restores \$1.0 million for the San Pedro (watershed) Partnership, and adds \$1.1 million for Santa Ana River conservation and land management programs. The Committee adds \$156,000 for accelerated soil surveys in Wyoming. The mark provides a \$1.0 increase for the Idaho strategic plan for noxious weed control. It is unclear if this is identical to the recurring Senate earmark (\$493,000 in FY 2005) for the Idaho Department of Agriculture, which the budget request did not fund. The Committee bill includes a decrease of \$300,000 for rangeland restoration. Although not certain, presumably this refers to the \$300,000 increase that was requested for noxious weed control in sagebrush ecosystems like the Great Basin.
- In Recreation Management, the Committee adds \$1.0 million for implementation of the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa National Monument plan.
- In Energy and Minerals Management, the Committee provides a \$2.0 million increase over the request for Oil and Gas Management. The Committee does not specify the use of the increase, but it more than offsets the \$1.9 million reduction in the budget request tied to BLM implementation of new cost recovery regulations. The Committee report directs BLM to report by December 31, on the administrative, regulatory, and statutory steps that may be necessary to proceed with oil shale development on public lands.
- In Resource Protection and Maintenance, the Committee adds \$1.0 million in Resource Management Planning for California desert conservation area plans. In Resource Protection and Law Enforcement, the Committee adds \$1.25 million to increase BLM law enforcement presence on the Southwestern border in New Mexico, Arizona, and California. This is in addition to the \$1.0 million increase included in the budget request to strengthen law enforcement capabilities in the Four Corners area, and the \$2.0 million in 2005 Congressional increases for law enforcement (\$1.0 million for California Desert Rangers and \$1.0 million to address illegal immigration-related environmental degradation in Arizona) that were retained in the President's budget.

Finally, the Committee maintains funding for the mandatory Range Improvement Fund at \$10.0 million. The Administration proposed to abolish this account by depositing the Federal share of grazing fees in the General Fund of the Treasury for deficit reduction, but legislation to adopt this proposal has not yet been considered by the authorizing committee. The President's Budget proposed to offset this reduction in mandatory funding by conducting high priority range improvement projects with discretionary funding in the Deferred Maintenance and CCI programs.

## Wildland Fire Management

\$000	05 Enacted	06 Budget	House	House +/- 05 Enacted	House +/- 06 Budget
<b>Preparedness</b>	258,939	272,852	272,852	+13,913	0
<b>Suppression</b>	218,445	234,167	234,167	+15,722	0
Title IV	98,611	0	0	-98,611	0
Subtotal	317,056	234,167	234,167	-82,889	0
<b>Other Ops</b>					
Fuels	201,409	211,220	211,220	+9,811	0
Rehab	23,939	24,476	24,476	+537	0
RFA	9,861	0	5,000	-4,861	+5,000
Facilities	12,202	7,849	7,849	-4,353	0
Fire Science	7,889	6,000	6,000	-1,889	0
Subtotal	255,300	249,545	254,545	-755	+5,000
<b>Total</b>	831,295	756,564	761,564	-69,731 -8.4%	+5,000 +0.7%

*The President's Budget proposed a budget structure different from that displayed in this table, but it was not approved by the Committee. For ease of comparison, the request is shown in the same budget structure as that adopted by the Committee.*

The President's budget proposed \$756.6 million for Wildland Fire Management. Excluding a one-time contingent appropriation of \$98.6 million for fire suppression in 2005, this represents a \$23.9 million increase over the 2005 enacted level.

The request for Fire Preparedness included a \$5.0 million increase to support the additional costs of the reconfigured aviation fleet. An increase of \$15.7 million would fully fund Suppression Operations at the ten-year average. The budget included a net increase of \$7.8 million in the Hazardous Fuels Reduction program to further the goals of the National Fire Plan and the Healthy Forests Initiative in addressing the excessive buildup of hazardous fuels in forests and rangelands.

The 2006 budget request reflected a shift in emphasis in assistance provided to local fire departments. It zeroed out the \$9.9 million Rural Fire Assistance program, which provided basic training and equipment, but proposed a \$1.9 million increase in Preparedness to provide advanced training and other critical support to local fire departments and firefighters. Finally, the budget request reduced the Fire Facilities program by \$4.4 million and the Joint Fire Science program by \$1.9 million.

The Committee provides \$761.6 million for Wildland Fire Management, a \$5.0 million increase over the request, to fund the Rural Fire Assistance program at roughly one-half of the 2005 level.



## Native American Programs

### Office of the Special Trustee

\$000				House +/-	
	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>	<u>House</u>	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>
OST	193,540	269,397	191,593	-1,947	-77,804
ILCA	<u>34,514</u>	<u>34,514</u>	<u>34,514</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	228,054	303,911	226,107	-1,947	-77,804
				-0.9%	-25.6%

The 2006 budget request for OST accounts totaled \$303.9 million, including \$269.4 million for Federal Trust Programs and \$34.5 million for Indian Land Consolidation. For the OST accounts the budget reflected a net increase of \$75.9 million or 33 percent above the 2005 enacted level. The budget for OST included \$135.0 million for the Office of Historical Trust Accounting, an increase of \$77.8 million above the 2005 level.

Included within the total, as a result of base evaluation of trust programs, were reductions or redirections totaling \$6.5 million to refocus on other high priority trust reform initiatives. The reductions included \$2.0 million for completion of certain trust systems work supporting development of policies and procedures, \$1.5 million in records management, \$1.1 million in risk management activities, and \$950,000 for completion of the virtual trust data warehouse and appraisal system. In addition, a reduction of \$1.0 million in the appraisal program was possible as a result of economies and efficiencies in conducting reservation-wide rather than individual tract land appraisals.

Other net adjustments included increases of \$1.0 million for additional field space costs in OST, \$496,000 for net adjusted costs of Department-wide Enterprise Service Network and IT security costs, offset by a decrease of \$158,000 for management efficiencies in space and fleet utilization. Uncontrollable and technical transfer costs included increases of \$1.4 million for pay, space, and related costs; and an increase of \$1.9 million to reflect the transfer of funding from BIA to OST for the probate attorney decision maker staff as part of the single probate adjudication office under Office of Hearings and Appeals.

The 2006 budget for Indian Land Consolidation was \$34.5 million, the same as the 2005 level.

The House provides \$191.6 million for Federal trust programs, a decrease of \$77.8 million below the request level, and a decrease of \$1.9 million below the 2005 level. Except for the increase requested for historical accounting, the House provides for all the increases requested, and agrees to the reductions proposed. The House provides \$58.0 million for historical accounting, a decrease of \$77.0 million from the request.

House bill language limits spending on historical accounting to \$58.0 million. Report language notes that the requested funding has been provided for both BIA and OST trust management reform and improving trust services, but continued historical accounting at the fiscal year 2005 level. Report language continues to note the Committee's concern about the scope of an historical accounting. "The Committee

does not agree to the large increase requested for historical accounting and has shifted this funding to help offset the reductions proposed in the Administration's request to Indian education and health care. The Committee rejects the notion that, in passing the American Indian Trust Management Reform Act of 1994, Congress had any intent of ordering an historical accounting on the scale of that which continues to be ordered by the Court. Such an undertaking would certainly be a poor use of federal and trust resources."

The House provides the \$34.5 million for Indian Land Consolidation, the amount requested, and the same amount as the 2005 level.

The House Bill continues bill language to:

- Utilize any unobligated balances from prior appropriations acts for OST or BIA for trust management reform, other than historical accounting.
- Hire administrative law judges to address Indian probate backlog.
- Limit compensation for the Special Master and Special Master-Monitor in *Cobell v. Norton* to 200 percent of the highest SES rate of pay.
- Pay private attorneys for the costs of legal representation for employees and former employees incurred in connection with *Cobell v. Norton*.
- Provide funds to Tribes within the California Tribal Trust Reform Consortium as a pilot effort separate from the Department's trust reform reorganization.

#### Bureau of Indian Affairs

\$000				House +/-	House +/-
	05 Enacted	06 Budget	House	05 Enacted	06 Budget
Op. of Indian Programs	1,926,091	1,924,230	1,992,737	+66,646	+68,507
Construction	319,129	232,137	284,137	-34,992	+52,000
Land & Water Settlements	44,150	24,754	34,754	-9,396	+10,000
Guaranteed Loan Program	<u>6,332</u>	<u>6,348</u>	<u>6,348</u>	<u>+16</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	2,295,702	2,187,469	2,317,976	+22,274	+130,507
				+1.0%	+6.0%

The request for BIA for 2006 was \$2.2 billion, a net decrease of \$108.2 million or five percent below 2005. The total request for increases totaled \$39.7, focusing on the bureau's highest priorities – improving trust management programs, law enforcement and detention centers, education, and economic development. The President's Budget included several offsetting decreases including reductions to the education construction program, Tribal Colleges and Universities operating grants, and programs that lack performance accountability or duplicate other Federal or State programs.

The 2006 budget request included a program increase of \$12.6 million for trust programs and \$19.2 million to expand a law enforcement presence in high crime areas and to staff, operate, and maintain new detention centers and repair existing detention centers.

For the school construction program, the 2006 budget proposed a reduction of \$89.5 million for school construction and repair in order to allow the program to focus on building the 34 schools that have already been funded.

The House provides \$2.3 billion for BIA, an increase of \$130.5 million over the 2006 President's budget. Uncontrollable costs are fully funded. Changes from the request include:

#### **Trust Programs**

- The House funds the BIA portions of the Unified Trust budget at \$289.4 million, \$2.0 million more than the request. The House does not accept the proposed reduction of \$2.0 million in the BIA Endangered Species Program.
- The House provides the request for an additional \$1.5 million for the National Indian Programs Training Center, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

#### **Law Enforcement and Detention Centers**

- The House Committee funds public safety and justice programs, both operations and construction, at \$209.0 million, \$8.5 million more than the request. The House increases funding for on-the-ground community policing and drug enforcement programs by \$8.5 million over the request. The Committee requests a report detailing the use of these funds by December 31, 2005. The House provides the requested increases for detention centers.

#### **Tribal Priority Allocations**

- The House funds TPA at \$778.1 million, \$17.7 million more than the request. The House does not accept the proposed decreases in Johnson-O'Malley assistance grants, welfare assistance, and community fire protection. The House adds \$1.5 million above the request for Indian Child Welfare Act programs.

#### **Education**

- The House Committee provides \$545.0 million for elementary and secondary school operations, \$23.4 million more than the request, including an additional \$13.0 million for ISEP formula funds; \$5.0 million for student transportation, and \$2.0 million for the FOCUS program. The House does not accept the proposal to reduce the early childhood development programs by \$3.4 million.

#### **School Construction**

- The House funds school construction at \$225.9 million, an increase of \$52.0 million over the request. The House provides an additional \$32.0 million to complete funding for Crownpoint Community School, fully fund replacement of the Muckleshoot Tribal School, and begin the Denneshoto Boarding School. The House also provides an additional \$19.0 million for the Facilities Improvement and Repair program, which will fund four to six additional major FI&R projects.

#### **Tribal Resource and Community Development**

- The House adds \$1.2 million to Irrigation Operations and Maintenance program for the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project.
- The House provides funding for a number of resource management programs not requested in the budget:
  - +\$3.75 million for the Washington State Timber-Fish-Wildlife Project;
  - +\$1.8 million for the Chippewa/Ottawa Resource Authority (CORA);
  - +\$320,000 for the Upper Columbia United Tribes;

- +\$600,000 for the Circle of Flight program;
- +\$3.0 million for the Intertribal Bison Management House;
- +396,000 for the Seminole Tribe for Everglades restoration;
- +\$508,000 for the National Ironworkers Training Program;
- +\$3.5 million for United Tribes Technical College;
- +\$1.7 million for Crownpoint Institute of Technology; and
- +\$320,000 for Seminole-Everglades Restoration.

### **Indian Land and Water Claims Settlements**

- The House provides \$10.0 million above the request to fund the Quinault Indian Nation North Boundary settlement. This settlement was funded in BIA in 2005, but the 2006 budget proposed funding it within the Fish and Wildlife Service land acquisition account.

### **Budget Restructuring**

- The House denies the request to restructure the BIA budget, citing inadequate consultation with Tribes. Report language directs BIA to consult with Tribes on the budget structure, lays out specific criteria for the restructure, and requires a report on the progress of consultation October 31, 2005. BIA is directed to submit a revised budget structure in 2007.

### **BIA Report Language**

- The House directs BIA to develop an internet website on the DOI homepage that provides detailed information on the BIA and OST budgets. A report on tribal consultation is due December 31, 2005. The House also urges DOI and OMB to give UTTC and CIT full consideration in future funding requests and to work with the institutions to resolve concerns over funding formulas.

### **Maintaining America's Heritage**

#### **Maintenance**

	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>	<u>House</u>	House +/- <u>05 Enacted</u>	House +/- <u>06 Budget</u>
BLM	100,634	95,043	95,043	-5,591	0
USGS	33,204	33,284	33,284	+80	0
FWS	154,056	156,322	158,397	+4,341	+2,075
NPS	582,739	595,586	594,686	+11,947	-900
BIA	<u>73,150</u>	<u>77,065</u>	<u>77,065</u>	<u>+3,915</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	943,783	957,300	958,475	+14,692	+1,175
				1.6%	0.1%

The 2006 budget included \$957.3 million for annual, deferred, and cyclic maintenance programs in BLM, USGS, FWS, NPS, and BIA, an increase of \$13.5 million above 2005.

The House mark provides \$958.5 million an increase of \$14.7 million above 2005 and \$1.2 million above the request. BLM, USGS, and BIA receive the requested levels of \$95.0 million, \$33.3 million, and \$77.1 million respectively in the House mark. In House

Committee action FWS receives \$158.4 million, an increase of \$2.1 million above the request and the NPS request is reduced by \$900,000 to \$594.7 million.

**Construction**

	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>	<u>House</u>	House +/- <u>05 Enacted</u>	House +/- <u>06 Budget</u>
BLM	11,340	6,476	11,476	+136	+5,000
FWS	52,658	19,676	41,206	-11,452	+21,530
NPS	302,180	324,362	308,230	+6,050	-16,132
BIA	<u>319,129</u>	<u>232,137</u>	<u>284,137</u>	<u>-34,992</u>	<u>+52,000</u>
Total	685,307	582,651	645,049	-40,258 -5.9%	+62,398 +10.7%

The President’s budget included \$582.7 million for construction, comprised of \$6.5 million in BLM, \$19.7 million in FWS, \$324.4 million in NPS, and \$232.1 million in BIA.

The House provides a total of \$645.0 million including increases in BLM, FWS, and BIA. The House adds 25 projects, totaling \$51.7 million. Twenty-seven projects representing \$42.1 million requested by the President are not funded.

**BLM.** All requested projects are funded the House and an additional \$5.0 million is provided for unspecified high priority deferred maintenance construction projects that improve recreation facilities and public access.

**FWS.** In the \$41.2 million provided by the House, all \$21.5 million of the increase is provided to nine add-on projects. Among these projects, \$3.4 million is provided for the Clark R. Bavin Forensics Laboratory renovation/upgrade in Oregon, \$5.0 million for the visitor contact facilities nation-wide, and \$3.9 million for Tualatin NWR visitor center and administration building in Washington/Oregon.

**NPS.** The \$308.2 million provided for construction by the House represents a \$16.1 million reduction from the request and includes a \$17.0 million offset from prior year Everglades land acquisition funds. NPS construction is discussed in more detail below.

**BIA.** The House mark of \$284.1 million is an increase of \$52.0 million over the request of \$232.1 million. Of the increase, \$33.0 million is provided for replacement school construction projects including Muckleshoot in Washington and Dennehosoto in Arizona and \$19.0 million is provided for additional major school facilities and improvement and repair projects. The \$3.9 million requested for three major detention center facilities improvement and repair projects is provided for Macy in Nebraska, Turtle Mountain in North Dakota, and Blackfeet in Montana, as proposed in the budget.

A detailed list of construction projects for the bureaus is included in Attachment 4.

## National Park Service Deferred Maintenance Backlog

\$000				House +/-	House +/-
	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>	<u>House</u>	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>
ONPS/Facility Maintenance	385,429	392,233	391,333	+5,904	-900
Construction	<u>302,180</u>	<u>324,362</u>	<u>308,230</u>	<u>6,050</u>	<u>-16,132</u>
Total	687,609	716,595	699,563	11,954	-17,032
				+1.7%	-2.4%

The President's Budget requested \$716.6 million in support of the Administration's commitment to manage the NPS deferred maintenance backlog, an increase of \$29.0 million over the 2005 enacted level. This figure is composed of the entire Construction appropriation as well as the Facility Maintenance component of the Park Management Activity in the Operation of the National Park System account. Within this increase, an additional \$3.4 million was requested for Repair and Rehabilitation to improve the condition of historic buildings. The request also included an offset of \$17.0 million in prior year Everglades land acquisition balances.

The House Committee mark provides \$699.6 million for NPS deferred maintenance, \$17.0 million below the President's request. Assuming full funding of the \$320.0 million FHWA request for park roads, deferred maintenance funding at the House Committee level would total \$1,127.6 million to address the deferred maintenance backlog in 2006 and a total of \$4.86 billion over five years.

The request for an additional \$3.4 million for Repair and Rehabilitation projects for historic buildings is partially funded in the House mark at \$2.5 million, \$900,000 below the request.

The Committee provides \$308.2 million for the Construction account or \$16.1 million below the Administration's request level. This level of funding for the Construction account will be offset by a reduction of \$17.0 million in prior year balances. Line item construction is funded at \$204.2 million, \$16.9 million below the President's request of \$221.2 million.

Ten requested projects representing \$42.1 million are not funded, including the \$12.7 million request at Western Arctic National Parklands in Alaska. Two Lake Mead National Recreation Area projects in Nevada totaling \$9.3 million are not funded but are directed to be funded out of the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act.

Among the 15 added-on projects, totaling \$25.2 million, are \$4.0 million for the Lincoln Library in Illinois, \$3.5 million for the Blue Ridge Parkway visitor center in North Carolina, \$3.2 million to complete the Plum Orchard home at Cumberland Island National Seashore in Georgia, and \$2.5 million for rehabilitation at the Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Ohio.

## Science Programs

### USGS

\$000	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>	<u>House</u>	House +/- <u>05 Enacted</u>	House +/- <u>06 Budget</u>
	SIR	935,464	933,515	974,586	+39,122 +4.2%

The 2006 President's Budget requested \$933.5 million for the USGS Surveys, Investigations and Research account. The House mark of \$974.6 million is \$41.1 million above the budget request and \$38.1 million over the 2005 enacted level.

**Mapping.** The House funds the National Mapping Program at \$133.2 million, which is \$250,000 below the request level and \$14.5 million above the 2005 enacted level. This includes \$6.0 million to cover the Landsat shortfall in 2006 and \$7.5 million for development of an upgraded ground processing system needed as part of the Landsat Data Continuity Mission. The House does not fund the \$250,000 requested for the science impact program.

**Geology.** Geology is funded at \$239.3 million. The House restores the proposed \$28.5 million reduction to the Minerals Resources Program and includes report language disagreeing with the rationale behind that reduction. The House funds all of the requested increases within the President's budget for geology, including \$5.4 million for a tsunami warning system for the United States and its Territories. The House also provides the following additions to the President's request:

- \$250,000 for a global dust study,
- \$1.2 million for Florida shelf research, and
- \$1.1 million for Alaska mineral resource assessments.

**Water Resources.** The House provides \$211.8 million for water resources investigations, which is \$7.6 million above the budget request and \$551,000 above the 2005 enacted level. The House directs the USGS to begin a second pilot project, in line with its November 2003 implementation plan for the program. The following additions to the President's budget are also included:

- an addition of \$230,000 to the toxic hydrology funding base,
- \$100,000 for the Hood Canal dissolved oxygen study, and
- \$750,000 for the San Pedro Partnership.

In report language, the House also discourages the Water Resources Discipline of the USGS from taking on activities that could be performed outside the Federal sector. A report describing the USGS' past, present and future efforts to avoid competing with the private sector is called for.

**Biology.** Biological research is funded at \$174.8 million, which is \$1.8 million above the budget request and \$3.1 million above the 2005 enacted level. The House does not fund the initiatives in the President's budget for Science on the DOI Landscape, Glen Canyon adaptive management, and invasive species. The House provides \$3.4 million in

earmarks for biological research, including \$1.4 million for the Great Lakes Science Center for needs associated with the docking of the research vessel Kiyi.

The House funds the Enterprise Information program at \$47.1 million, which is \$680,000 below the request level and \$2.7 million above the 2005 enacted level. The House mark does not include funding for the disaster management e-government initiative and bill language includes a prohibition against paying the costs. Science Support is funded at \$72.3 million, which includes \$6.0 million to pay back the 2005 reprogramming to cover the Landsat shortfall. The USGS facilities program is funded at \$96.2 million, which is \$1.5 million above the request and includes restoration of funding for rental payments included in the President's budget as a part of the minerals resources program reduction.

### Other Bureaus, Offices, and Programs

#### **National Recreation & Preservation**

\$000				House +/-	
	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>	<u>House</u>	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>
NR&P	60,973	36,777	48,997	-11,976	+12,220
				-19.6%	+33.2%

The President's budget request included \$36.8 million for National Recreation and Preservation programs. The 2006 request was a decrease of \$24.2 million below funding provided in the 2005 appropriation. The request proposed \$5.0 million for national heritage areas, a decrease of \$9.6 million from 2005. The budget request also eliminated funding for the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training and funding for statutory and contractual aid grants.

The House provides \$49.0 million for NR&P programs, an increase of \$12.2 million above the President's request. This includes \$15.0 million for national heritage areas, an increase of \$10.0 million above the Administration's request. The House mark also provides \$2.2 million to restore funding for the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training. The House Committee does not provide funding for statutory and contractual aid grants, consistent with the budget.

#### **NPS Historic Preservation Fund**

\$000				House +/-	
	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>	<u>House</u>	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>
Historic Pres.	38,705	38,705	39,205	500	500
Save Amer.					
Treasures	29,583	15,000	30,000	417	15,000
Preserve					
America	0	12,500	0	0	-12,500
HBCUs	<u>3,451</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3,500</u>	<u>+49</u>	<u>+3,500</u>
Total	71,739	66,205	72,705	+966	+6,500
				+1.3%	+9.8%



The President's budget requested a total of \$66.2 million for the NPS Historic Preservation Fund. This included \$38.7 million in grants to States, Territories and Tribes. It also included \$15.0 million for the Save America's Treasure program and \$12.5 million for the Preserve America initiative. The President did not request funding for grants to HBCUs; in 2005 Congress added \$3.5 million for this program.

The House provides a total of \$72.7 million for the Historic Preservation Fund, an increase of \$6.5 million above the President's request. Funding for historic preservation grants to States, Territories, and Tribes totals \$39.2 million, an increase of \$500,000 above the request. The House Committee provides \$3.5 million for grants-in-aid to HBCUs, essentially level with the 2005 enacted level. The House mark also provides \$15.0 million above the requested level for the Save America's Treasures program, for total funding of \$30.0 million. The House does not fund the Administration's request of \$12.5 million for Preserve America.

### Minerals Management Service

\$000			House +/-		House +/-	
	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>	<u>House</u>	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>	
ROMM	166,820	160,416	152,676	-14,144	-7,740	
Oil Spill	<u>7,006</u>	<u>7,006</u>	<u>7,006</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	
Total	173,827	167,422	159,682	-14,144	-7,740	
				-8.1%	-4.6%	
Offsetting Collections	103,730	122,730	122,730	+19,000	0	

The President's Budget request for MMS included \$167.4 million for direct appropriations comprised of \$160.4 million for Royalty and Offshore Minerals Management (ROMM) and \$7.0 million for Oil Spill Research. This was a net decrease of \$6.4 million from 2005. Collections from Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) rents and other fee sources were requested at \$122.7 million, an increase of \$19.0 million from 2005. The total request was \$290.2 million for MMS operations.

The 2006 budget proposed increases including: \$1.2 million for a records management improvement project; \$5.8 million to fund the Royalty-In-Kind (RIK) program out of ROMM appropriations rather than from revenue receipts; an additional \$4.0 million for RIK to offset costs which had been covered by RIK receipts; \$2.6 million for evolving technologies and growing regulatory needs of increased OCS deepwater activity; and \$500,000 for the Indian Compliance Assurance Initiative. Also, MMS proposed to collect \$19.0 million in new cost recovery and other fees in 2006.

The House Committee mark provides \$152.7 million for ROMM, \$7.7 million below the President's request. For ROMM, increases were provided for contractor-related support costs (totaling \$2.1 million) offset by a \$9.8 million reduction described below. Oil Spill Research is funded at the requested amount. The Committee concurs with the Administration's request to increase receipts and fees by \$19.0 million.

The House bill language provides MMS with permanent authority to fund the RIK program from sales receipts, and allows MMS to recover transportation costs, salaries, and other administrative costs directly related to the RIK program. Thus, the \$9.8

million in direct funding requested for RIK activities is eliminated. In addition to recommending permanent authority for the RIK program, the Committee report encourages MMS to establish multi-year agreements for RIK transportation and processing

### Office of Surface Mining

\$000				House +/-	House +/-
	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>	<u>House</u>	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>
Regulation & Technology	108,368	110,535	110,535	+2,167	0
Abandoned Mine Land	188,205	188,014	188,014	-191	0
Certified States	<u>0</u>	<u>58,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-58,000</u>
Total	296,573	356,549	298,549	+1,976 +0.7%	-58,000 -16.3%

The President's budget request included \$356.5 million for OSM programs, a net increase of \$60.0 million above the 2005 enacted level. The President's budget included a \$58.0 million increase in the Abandoned Mine Land program for payments to certified States and Tribes in anticipation of a reauthorization proposal, and a \$2.2 million increase for Regulation and Technology.

The House Committee funds OSM programs at the President's request, except the mark does not include the requested \$58.0 million increase in the AML program. The mark is \$2.0 million above the 2005 enacted level and \$58.0 million below the President's request.

Committee report language encourages the authorizing committees to act on the Administration's legislative proposal submitted last year to extend and modify AML provisions of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. The requested \$58 million is not included because legislative action is still pending.

The House includes bill language for a one-time transfer of the unappropriated balance of funds in the Rural Abandoned Mine Program portion of the AML fund to the Federal share allocation, to be used for emergencies and other high-priority Federal obligations. The RAMP portion of the fund is subject to appropriation and has not been used in ten years. The transfer increases the amount available for continuation of the State and tribal AML grant program in the event that the AML fee is not extended beyond its current expiration date, September 30, 2005.

### Office of Insular Affairs

\$000				House +/-	House +/-
	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>	<u>House</u>	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>
Assistance to Territories	75,581	74,263	76,563	+982	+2,300
Compact of Free Assoc	<u>5,450</u>	<u>4,862</u>	<u>5,362</u>	<u>-88</u>	<u>+500</u>
Total	81,031	79,125	81,925	+894 +1.1%	+2,800 +3.5%

The 2006 President's Budget requested \$79.1 million in current (non-permanent) funding for the Office of Insular Affairs, which was \$1.9 million below the 2005 enacted level. The House mark provides OIA with \$81.9 million in current funding, which is \$2.8 million above the 2006 request and \$894,000 above the 2005 enacted level.

**Assistance to Territories.** The House funds Assistance to Territories at \$76.6 million, which is \$2.3 million above the President's request and \$651,000 above the 2005 enacted level.

The House provides funding for \$1.0 million requested for water and wastewater projects in the insular areas. The House provides an additional \$500,000 to support oversight of the implementation of the Compacts of Free Association. Report language directs the Department to review funding and staffing levels for Compact oversight.

The House also includes \$800,000 for payments to replace the Prior Service Trust Fund and directs the Department to continue to work with the Board of Directors of the Prior Services Benefits Trust Fund and the directors of the pension systems of the Republic of Palau, CNMI, RMI, and the FSM to put agreements in place for assumption of the responsibilities of the Prior Service Benefits Trust Fund into the local pension systems.

The House provides an additional \$1.0 million for continuation of health care programs in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The House directs that such medical care shall consist of a clinic with at least one doctor and an assistant, necessary supplies, and logistical support. The House also expresses its concern over the funding spent on business development conferences in Los Angeles and directs that the OIA provide both the House and the Senate Appropriations Committees with project cost plans both before and after similar conferences in the future, including any future "business opportunities missions."

**Compact of Free Association.** The House funds the Compact of Free Association at \$5.4 million, which is \$500,000 above the President's request and \$88,000 below the 2005 enacted level. The increased funding provided by the House is for Enewetak Support.

**Departmental Offices.**

\$000				House +/-	House +/-
	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>	<u>House</u>	<u>05 Enacted</u>	<u>06 Budget</u>
Dept. Mgmt.	76,731	89,159	87,759	+11,028	-1,400
FBMS	14,160	23,555	23,555	+9,395	0
Appraisal Services	0	7,441	7,441	+7,441	0
Grant/Kendall County	<u>4,931</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-4,931</u>	<u>0</u>
Subtotal, DM	95,822	120,155	118,755	+22,933	-1,400
PILT	226,805	200,000	230,000	+3,195	+30,000
Central HAZMAT*	9,855	9,855	9,855	0	0
Solicitor	51,656	55,752	55,340	+3,684	-412
Office of Inspect. Gen.	37,275	40,999	39,566	+2,291	-1,433
NRDA	<u>5,737</u>	<u>6,106</u>	<u>6,106</u>	<u>+369</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	427,150	432,867	459,622	+32,472	+26,755
				+7.6%	+6.2%

\*Proposed for transfer in 2006 from BLM to the Office of the Secretary.

Overall, the 2006 President's budget for Departmental Offices provided \$432.9 million.

**Departmental Management:**

For Departmental Management, the President's budget request of \$120.2 million included \$96.6 for Departmental Offices and centralized services supporting management of the Department, and \$23.6 million for the Financial and Business Management System. Changes proposed in the budget included:

- \$7.2 million for the appraisal services program);
- \$1.5 million for continued development of the Enterprise Services Network;
- \$700,000 to enhance the law enforcement and security program, in particular, create an internal affairs function;
- \$500,600 for Take Pride in America;
- \$463,000 to prepare OS financial data for migration to FBMS;
- \$250,000 to develop tools to utilize performance and cost data effectively;
- \$200,000 for partnership training;
- \$100,000 to further enforce aspects of the Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990; and

The House Committee provides \$118.8 million, a decrease of \$1.4 million from the request but \$22.9 million more than the 2005 enacted level. The House funds requested increases for the appraisal services program, Enterprise Services Network, FBMS financial data preparation, development of tools to utilize performance and cost data, enforcement aspects of the Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990, and fixed costs. The House bill does not provide the increases requested to enhance the law enforcement program, Take Pride in America, or partnerships training.

The House Committee mark funds the Financial and Business Management System at the request level.

**Central Hazardous Materials Fund:**

The House Committee accepts the Administration's proposal to transfer the Central Hazardous Materials Fund from BLM to the Office of the Secretary and funds it at the request level of \$9.9 million.

**Payments in Lieu of Taxes:**

For the Payments in Lieu of Taxes program, the budget included \$200.0 million, a decrease of \$26.8 million below the 2005 enacted level. The House Committee funds the program at \$230.0 million, an increase of \$30.0 million above the request.

**Office of the Solicitor:**

For the Office of the Solicitor, the President's budget requested \$55.8 million including the following increases:

- \$1.9 million for fixed costs;
- \$1.2 million for IT, including two additional FTEs, operations and maintenance, certification and accreditation, replacement of printers, software upgrades, Smart Card implementation, and initial investments in a Legal Knowledge Management System;
- \$520,000 to fund an additional four attorney positions
- \$200,000 to fund two support position in the new FOIA appeals function transferred from the OCIO; and

- \$212,000 for training, travel, and other support of legal staff.

The House mark provides \$55.3 million, a decrease of \$412,000 from the request, and \$3.7 million above 2005. The House eliminates increased funding for two additional support positions in the FOIA appeals function, and eliminates the increased funding for training, travel, and support of legal staff. The House funds requested increases for fixed costs, information technology improvements, and additional legal staff.

**Office of the Inspector General:**

For the Office of the Inspector General, the budget request was \$41.0 million, which included the following increases:

- \$1.6 million for fixed costs;
- \$600,000 for four FTEs to perform FISMA compliance oversight;
- \$470,000 for two FTEs and PCS expenses relating to the formation of the Office of Evaluations and Management Services;
- \$1.2 million to fund eight FTEs in the Office of Investigations to increase efficiencies in combating waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement; and
- \$213,000 for security clearances, computer equipment and software upgrades, and the OIG Mentor Program training.

The House mark provides \$39.6 million, a decrease of \$1.4 million from the request, and \$2.3 million above 2005. The House mark decreases funding for Office of Investigations by \$750,000, and eliminates funding increases for two FTEs and PCS for the Office of Evaluations and Management Services, computer equipment and software upgrades, security clearances, and for the Mentor Program training. The House funds increases for fixed costs, FTEs to perform FISMA compliance oversight, and three FTEs for investigations.

**Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program:**

For the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration program, the budget included \$6.1 million. The House Committee mark funds the program at the request level.

**MAJOR LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE ITEMS**

**Title 1 – General Provisions, Department of the Interior**

Title 1 of the House bill includes numbered legislative provisions, including the following:

**Outer Continental Shelf Moratoria.** As requested in the President’s Budget, the House continues the moratoria on OCS oil and gas activities. (House §104-106)

**Entrance Fee.** The House continues a restriction on reduced entrance fee programs for non-local travel through park units. The President’s Budget sought to strike this provision as unnecessary with the passage of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. (House §107).

**Twin Cities.** The House continues language proposed in the budget to allow conveyance of properties at the Twin Cities Research Center and retention of receipts related to use of the properties. (House §112)

**Sheldon and Hart NWR.** The House includes language requested in the budget to allow FWS to use helicopters and motor vehicles for management of wild horses and burros at the refuge. (House §113)

**Land Acquisition Grants.** The House continues a provision that allows NPS land acquisition funds for Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District and Ice Age National Scenic Trail to be used for grants to a State, local government, or any other land management for the acquisition of lands without regard to any restriction in the LWCF Act of 1965. The President's Budget proposed to delete this provision as one-time. (House §114)

**Carlsbad Caverns.** The House continues the limitation on the use of funds for a concessions contract permitting or requiring the removal of the underground lunchroom at Carlsbad Caverns NP. The budget proposed to eliminate this provision. (House §115)

**Bridge Demolition.** The House continues a provision prohibiting the use of funds to demolish of a bridge between Jersey City, New Jersey, and Ellis Island or to prevent pedestrian use of the bridge, as long as pedestrian use is consistent with generally accepted safety standards. The President's budget proposed to discontinue the provision. (House §116)

**Special Master/Court Monitor.** The House continues a provision that precludes the Departments of Interior, Treasury, and Justice from compensating the Special Master and the Special Master-Monitor appointed by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in the *Cobell v. Norton* litigation at an annual rate that exceeds 200 percent of the higher SES rate of pay for the Washington-Baltimore locality pay area. (House §117)

**Employee Attorney Fees.** The House continues a provision that allows the Secretary to use discretionary funds to pay private attorney fees and costs for employees and former employees of the Department of the Interior reasonably incurred in connection with *Cobell v. Norton*. (House §118)

**Mass Marking.** The House includes a provision requiring FWS to implement a system of mass marking of salmon intended for harvest that are released from Federally operated or funded hatcheries with a mark that can be readily identified by commercial and recreational fishers. The President's budget proposed to discontinue the provision. (House §119)

**Midway Atoll.** The House includes a provision that allows the transfer of funds as necessary from Departmental Management to FWS for operational needs at Midway Atoll NWR airport. The President's budget proposed to discontinue the provision. (House §120)

**Lake Powell.** The House continues a provision precluding the Department from studying or implementing a plan to drain Lake Powell or reduce the level of the lake below the range of water levels required for operation of the Glen Canyon dam. The President's budget proposed to discontinue the provision. (House §122)

**Indian Gaming.** As requested in the President's Budget, the House continues a provision capping the imposition of fees by the Indian Gaming Commission in 2007 at \$12 million. (House §123)

**Tribal Trust Demonstration Project.** As requested in the President's Budget, the House continues a 2004 provision that allows the Department to provide funds to certain, specified Tribes for a trust demonstration project. (House §124)

**Temporary Nonrenewable Grazing Permits.** The House continues a provision included in the 2005 Consolidated Appropriations Act that renews temporary nonrenewable grazing permits in the BLM Jarbidge Field Office, notwithstanding any other provision of law, including NEPA. The President's budget proposed to discontinue the provision. (House §125)

**Ellis, Governors and Liberty Islands.** As requested in the President's budget, the House continues a provision that authorizes the Secretary to acquire lands, waters, or interests therein in order to operate and maintain facilities in support of transportation and accommodation of visitors to Ellis, Governors, or Liberty Islands, by donation or with appropriated funds, including franchise fees, or by exchange. The provision also authorizes the Secretary to negotiate and enter into leases, subleases, concession contracts or other agreements for the use of such facilities. (House §126)

**Mojave National Preserve.** The House continues a provision that authorizes continuation of the Clark Mountain grazing allotment within the Mojave National Preserve. The President's budget proposed to discontinue the provision. (House §127)

**Staffing Limitation.** The House includes a provision that limits the use of funds for staffing the Department's Office of Law Enforcement and Security, including the number of staff detailed from other offices. (House §129)

#### **Title IV – General Provisions (Bill-wide)**

Title IV of the House bill includes numbered legislative provisions, including the following:

**Assessments, Charges, or Billings.** The House continues an expanded provision that limits the use of assessments and directs that no assessments, charges, or billings may be levied against programs funded in the bill unless advance notice is presented to and approval is provided by the appropriations committees. The President's budget proposed to change this provision to eliminate language that required approval by the Appropriations Committees. (House §405)

**Mine Patent Moratorium.** As requested in the President's budget, the House continues the mine patent moratorium for an additional year. (§407)

**Contract Support Costs.** The House continues a provision stating that the amount appropriated for contract support costs is the total amount available, and that Tribes may use the tribal priority allocations to cover unmet indirect costs. (§408)

**Government-wide Administrative Functions.** The House continues a provision that disallows the use of funds to support government-wide administrative functions unless justified in the budget and approved by the appropriations subcommittees. The President's budget proposed to discontinue the provision. (House §413)

**Answering Machines.** The House continues a provision first included in the 2003 Interior Appropriations Act that precludes the use of funds to operate telephone answering machines during core business hours unless an option is provided that enables callers to promptly reach an individual on-duty. (House §415)

**National Monuments.** The House continues a prohibition on the use of funds to conduct mineral preleasing, leasing, and related activities within the boundaries of a national monument established pursuant to the Antiquities Act, as such boundaries existed on January 20, 2001, except where such activities are allowed under the Presidential proclamation establishing the monument. (House §417)

**Reciprocal Agreements for Firefighters.** As requested in the President's budget, the House includes a provision providing liability coverage to foreign firefighters. (House §419)

**Hazardous Fuels and Watershed Projects.** The House continues language that allows the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture to provide a preference for local contractors in disadvantaged areas for ecosystem restoration and fuels reduction work. The President's budget proposed new language that also provides the preference, while providing the basis for a broader national program. (House §421).

**Declarations of Taking.** The conference bill includes a provision limiting the use of funds for the filing of declarations of taking or complaints in condemnation without approval of the Committees on Appropriations. The provision does not apply to funds appropriated to implement the Everglades National Park Protection Act of 1989 or to funds appropriated for Federal assistance to the State of Florida to acquire lands for Everglades restoration purposes. (House §422).

**Competitive Sourcing.** The House imposes a limit of \$3.450 million on Department of the Interior competitive sourcing studies for 2006 and clarifies reporting requirements. (House §423).

**Overhead Charges.** The House includes a provision that requires that all overhead charges, deductions, reserves or holdbacks from programs be presented in the budget and approved by the Appropriations Committees. The President's budget proposed to change this provision to eliminate language requiring approval by the Appropriations Committees. (House §424)

**E-Government.** The House continues a provision that precludes agencies funded in the Interior bill from providing funds to the managing partners of the SAFECOM, or



Disaster Management e-government projects. The President's budget proposed to discontinue the provision. (House §425)

**National Recreation Reservation Service.** The House continues a provision that prohibits any entity entering into a contract with the United States to operate NRRS (as solicited by WO-04-06vm) from using a contact center located outside the United States or a reservation agent who does not live in the U.S. Reservation agents are also prohibited from telecommuting from a location outside of the United States. The President's budget proposed to discontinue the provision. (House §426)

**Service First Reauthorization.** As assumed in the President's budget, the House bill includes a provision extending the "Service First" reciprocal delegation authority between BLM and the Forest Service through 2008. The House bill also expands the authority to NPS and FWS. (House §428)

**Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act.** The House establishes a reporting requirement for the expenditure of funds pursuant to the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act. (House §430)

### Technical Notes

All amounts are current dollars.

All years referred to are fiscal years unless otherwise noted.

Comparisons of House action in this document are to 2005 enacted to date appropriations (excluding disaster supplemental appropriations and the \$98.6 million fire repayment supplemental) and the 2006 President's budget as scored by Congressional Appropriations Committees, as amended. The Committees' scoring of 2005 and the President's budget differ somewhat, with the result that comparisons in this document to the President's budget do not in all instances match comparisons in the budget.

### OMB Budget Totals Compared with Appropriations Committee Totals

	<u>2005 Enacted</u>	<u>2006 Budget</u>	<u>2006 House</u> <u>Mark</u>
OMB Scoring	\$9,701,040	\$9,739,944	\$9,756,568
Committee Scoring	\$9,753,164	\$9,782,069	\$9,808,693

The Committees' scoring differs from OMB scoring by a net \$52.1 million in 2005 and \$42.1 million in 2006. The Committees include 4 current mandatory accounts that OMB does not include in its discretionary totals - BLM's Range Improvements (\$10 million), BLM's Miscellaneous Trust (\$12.4 million), OIA's Assistance to Territories (\$27.7 million) and Compact Assistance (\$2 million). The 2006 budget proposed elimination of the Range Improvement account.

## Legislative History

### House Bill – H.R. 2361/Report 109-80

#### **House Subcommittee**

The House Subcommittee reported the bill on May 4, 2005, unanimously approving the measure.

#### **House Committee**

The House Committee reported the bill on May 10, 2005, with two language amendments, by voice vote.

Amendments relating to the Department of the Interior programs were offered in Committee action on the following:

- **Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park** – Congressman Wolf proposed an amendment to add report language encouraging the Park Service to complete the management plan for the Park no later than September 1, 2007. The motion was approved by voice vote.
- **Chattahoochee National Recreation Area** – Congressman Kingston, on behalf of Congressman Price, held a colloquy about funding for Chattahoochee NRA and asked to work with the Subcommittee on additional funding for operations of the visitor center.
- **Yellowstone Bison** – Congressman Hinchey explained that he withdrew an amendment on Yellowstone bison.
- **OCS Moratoria** - Congressman Istook proposed an amendment that would revoke the moratoria for the eastern Gulf of Mexico OCS area in the bill at the point when importation of oil exceeds two-thirds of oil consumed in the United States. After discussion and input from several other members, Congressman Istook volunteered to work with the Chairman to examine the moratoria and withdrew his amendment.
- **Gas Inventory** - Congressman Peterson proposed an amendment to add \$50 million for a gas inventory on select OCS areas. The discussion by Congressman Peterson was followed by comments by Congressman Cunningham, Farr, Sherwood, and Young (Florida). Many of the comments indicated that this issue should be addressed through authorizing legislation and not in appropriations. Congressman Peterson subsequently withdrew the amendment.
- **Technical Amendment** – Chairman Taylor proposed a technical amendment that was adopted by voice vote.