

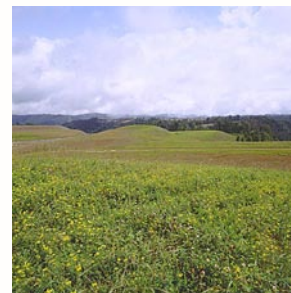
# Mission Area 1: Resource Protection—Protect the Nation’s Natural, Cultural, and Heritage Resources

- End Outcome 1 Improve the Health of Watersheds, Landscapes, and Marine Resources that are DOI Managed or Influenced in a Manner Consistent with Obligations Regarding the Allocation and Use of Water
- End Outcome 2 Sustain Biological Communities on DOI Managed and Influenced Lands and Waters in a Manner Consistent with Obligations Regarding the Allocation and Use of Water
- End Outcome 3 Protect Cultural and Natural Heritage Resources

As the Nation’s principal conservation agency, Interior is the custodian of many of America’s natural and cultural resources—conserving Federally managed lands and waters, protecting fish and wildlife, and preserving public lands for future generations to enjoy. We fulfill our resource protection mandate in several ways. We administer programs on thousands of upland, wetland, and aquatic parcels within our jurisdiction. We protect thousands of native plant and animal species, including 1,264 with special status under the Endangered Species Act. We serve as guardians of the Nation’s cultural heritage, with assets ranging from Native American archeological and cultural sites to national icons such as the Statue of Liberty and the U.S.S. Arizona Memorial.

## Recognizing Good Neighbors in Reclamation

Since passage of the Surface Mining Law in 1977, land reclamation has become a built-in component of surface coal mining in the United States. Interior’s Office of Surface Mining initiated its annual Excellence in Surface Coal Mining



Reclamation Awards in 1986 to spotlight the people and organizations behind some of the most outstanding achievements in environmentally sound surface mining and land reclamation, and to share experience gained from completing such exemplary reclamation. More than 170 awards have been conferred upon various mining companies and individuals since the award program’s initiation about 18 years ago.

In 2004, OSM’s “Best of the Best” Award in Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation went to the San Juan Mine in Waterflow, New Mexico. The team at the San Juan Mine exemplified award-winning reclamation; grading techniques and channel design used at the mine represent some of the most innovative reclamation technology that has been developed for western coal mining during the past 25 years. The reclamation team created slopes with the same characteristics as undisturbed lands. Their design process is based on fluvial geomorphic principles, so the reclaimed topography is more stable, diverse, and resistant to damage from flash flooding than traditional reclaimed land in an arid environment.

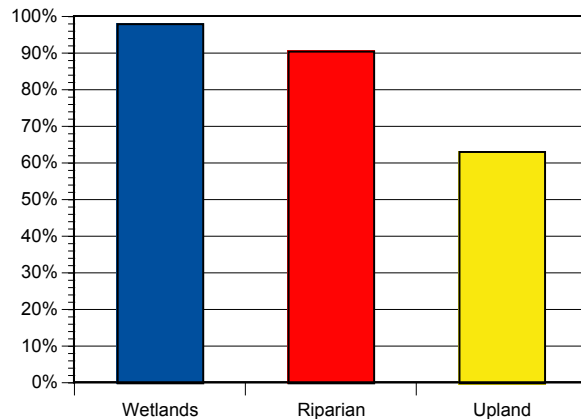
## End Outcome Goal 1: Improve the Health of Watersheds, Landscapes, and Marine Resources

Science is key to making decisions on how best to conserve the Nation's natural resources. Science conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) focuses on understanding, modeling, and predicting how multiple forces affect natural systems to enable land managers to evaluate the resource and environmental consequences of management choices under various scenarios. Scientists at Interior's National Park Service (NPS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) actively monitor the health of plants and animals and the quality of water and air on Interior-managed public and Tribal lands to identify factors impacting our natural resources. The NPS Natural Resource Challenge, for example, focuses on monitoring conditions within national park boundaries. The initiative includes vital signs and water quality monitoring. Recurring monitoring enables BLM to assess whether land use plans and management decisions are having their intended effect. Data collected by the FWS's Migratory Bird Survey Program are used by scientists to understand how bird populations respond to annual and long-term variation in weather and climate and the importance of habitat integrity to maintaining healthy bird populations. The USGS's Fire Science Research Program focuses on determining the role of fire in the restoration of non-forested ecosystems, the role of fire in the control and spread of invasive plants, and the effectiveness of fire/fuel treatments to reduce fire hazards. All of these efforts have helped Interior realize land and water restoration and protection efforts (*Figure 1-8*).

Our resource protection mandate is not limited to Federal lands. We manage conservation activities on non-Federal lands, particularly lands impacted by past mining. For example, within the last few years, we have sealed more than 27,000 abandoned mine portals and shafts and reclaimed more than 190,000 acres of abandoned coal mine land. In FY 2004, preliminary data suggest that we improved 12 stream-miles compromised by past surface coal mining against a target of 150 miles, but these data have yet to be verified.

FIGURE 1-8

### Percent of Targeted Wetlands, Riparian, and Upland Areas Restored in FY 2004



### 500 Babies Offer Hope for the Future of Their Species

About 500 hatchlings of the world's most endangered sea turtles were released into the waters of Padre Island National Seashore in July 2004. The release was the exciting culmination of months of work between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and the National Marine Fisheries Service, with funding in part from Unilever and the National Park Foundation to help save Kemp's ridley sea turtles from extinction—a successful program for over two decades. A record 40 Kemp's ridley nests were located on the Texas coast during the season. Eggs from 32 of the 40 nests were transported to an incubation facility at Padre Island NS for protected care and monitoring. The successful release of hatchlings from the tenderly incubated eggs adds substantially to chances for long-term survival of the Kemp's ridley at the Padre Island National Seashore.



## End Outcome Goal 2: Sustain Biological Communities

Part of our conservation mission includes discharging specific duties under the Endangered Species Act. We strive to recover species to healthy, self-sustaining levels, and protect species that are candidates for listing.

The Candidate Conservation Program is an integral component of endangered species management. This program conserves species on the brink of becoming listed as threatened or endangered. By working with private landowners, Tribes, State fish and wildlife agencies, and other Federal agencies, Interior's employees partner with others through the Candidate Conservation Program in a voluntary manner to stave off species extinction while promoting common sense, multiple-use land management. The Candidate Conservation Program has two key components: assessments of declining species and preventing the need to list those species. In FY 2004, Interior reported three new Candidate Conservation Agreements (CCAs) and three new Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAAs) were established to protect candidate and other at-risk species. Since inception of the program, Interior has signed and completed 108 CCAs and 8 CCAAs. An additional 37 CCAs and 35 CCAAs are ongoing. Many of these agreements have successfully contributed to removing threats, thus reducing or avoiding the need for listing. We have made substantial progress with a number of species, and as individual activities of the agreements are implemented over the coming years, we may be able to determine that listing several species covered by these agreements is unnecessary. The three species for which we determined that listing was unnecessary in FY 2004 due entirely or substantially to conservation efforts were slickspot peppergrass, the Camp Shelby burrowing crayfish, and the Holsinger's cave beetle.

Some invasive species threaten the ecological and economic health of the Nation. These alien species of plants and animals often invade native species habitat, choking out the endemic flora and fauna and competing for resources. The uncontrolled spread of some invasive species can lead to a loss of native species and upset the ecological balance. Controlling

### Team Tamarisk: Fighting a Nasty Weed

An inclusive alliance of cooperating agencies, Tribes, Federal and State organizations, and individuals across the West have banded together to form Team Tamarisk, a group devoted to controlling tamarisk and associated non-native invasive plants. Tamarisk is an especially tenacious, undesirable invasive shrub that can cause a wide



variety of economic, environmental, and public health and safety problems. It annually consumes an extra 2-3 million acre-feet of water out of western rivers in comparison to the consumption of native vegetation, stealing this precious resource from fish, wildlife, farmers, and faucets in western cities. It also burns even when it is green, making it a year-round fire hazard. Team Tamarisk is fighting the tamarisk wars head-on, developing a strategic approach to eliminate this nuisance. At a landmark conference sponsored in March 2004 by the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture, the National Invasive Species Council, the National Association of Counties, and numerous other organizations and agencies, more than 400 individuals came together to develop a set of principles to help guide tamarisk control work. We believe that by working together, we can make progress in addressing this invasive species challenge and win the tamarisk war.

these invaders is difficult and expensive. Interior is working closely with other Federal and State agencies to detect, predict the spread of, and prevent the establishment of invasive species before they become nuisances. In FY 2004, Interior restored an estimated 3,611,708 acres of land and 1,145 miles of stream- and shore-line to achieve habitat conditions to support species conservation against a target of 3,978,995 acres of land, and 841 stream/shoreline miles. We are partnering with private landowners and local communities to control established species such as tamarisk in the Southwest, the brown tree snake on Guam, and Asian carp in the Mississippi River Basin. These partnerships have achieved habitat/biological community goals for an estimated 47,022 acres of land through voluntary agreements and have protected habitat on an estimated 8,754,360 acres of landscapes and watersheds. In FY 2004, Interior experienced an estimated 8.7% change, against a target of 6.5%, from its baseline in the number of acres infested with invasive plant species. While we planned to establish a baseline to help us measure our

progress in controlling the number of invasive animal populations, we were unable to establish that baseline due to delays in establishing reporting databases and systems. Final data are expected in late December 2004. Overall, our efforts are helping to reestablish habitat conditions that support native species conservation.

### End Outcome Goal 3: Protect Cultural and Natural Heritage Resources

Interior's historic preservation responsibilities include maintaining and updating inventories of historic and prehistoric districts, structures, buildings, sites, landscapes, and objects on lands owned or controlled by the Department. Interior also partners with Tribes and other government agencies as well as non-profit groups to preserve historic structures not managed by Interior. Interior strives to increase the number of historic structures contained on the List of Classified Structures (LCS) that are in "good" condition. The LCS is the primary database containing condition information on national park historic structures. Structures on the LCS are on, or are eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise treated as cultural resources. The condition of these historic structures is listed as good, fair, or poor. Maintaining these structures in good condition meets requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act and is also a responsibility of the Department as part of its commitment to maintain the integrity of cultural resources it manages.

We are making progress. In FY 2004, 64.5% of cultural properties in DOI's inventory were in good condition, against a target of 62.1%. Efforts are underway to establish a baseline against which we can measure progress toward the percentage of collections designated as Indian natural resource trust assets (defined to consist of objects, works of art, and historic documents representing the fields of archeology, art, geology, biology, paleontology, and ethnology) contained in our inventory that are in good condition. As of the end of FY 2004, we have not yet identified the eligible properties in the BIA inventories, but a system has been developed that will enable us to identify and evaluate the condition of these properties over the next two years, at which time we will be able to establish the baseline.

### Preserving Memories and Historic Treasures: Marian Anderson's Piano

On February 24, 2004, Secretary of the Interior Gale A. Norton conferred a special historical designation on the Steinway Grand Concert Piano used to accompany the prominent African American opera singer, Marian Anderson. The piano was purchased in 1937 while Harold L. Ickes served as Secretary of the Interior and Franklin D. Roosevelt was President. In 1939, after Marian Anderson was denied the opportunity to sing at Constitution Hall (due to a clause in all contracts restricting the hall to "a concert by white artists only, and for no other purpose"), Secretary Ickes arranged for her to perform at the Lincoln Memorial and at the Interior Department. In 1943, the piano again accompanied Ms. Anderson when she performed at an Interior ceremony dedicating a mural depicting her performance at the Lincoln Memorial.



"African American history is a book filled with many unexplored chapters," Norton said at the 2004 event, at which she was joined by Ken Saliba, Vice President of Steinway and Sons Piano Company; Ms. Cynthia Hoover, Curator of Historical Instruments of the Smithsonian Museum; and Howard University officials. "These important chapters illustrate the contributions African Americans made in shaping this Nation. Let us appreciate this opportunity and build on it for the future."



TABLE 1-4

Mission Area 1: Resource Protection Performance and Resource Scorecard				
End Outcome Goal	Number of Measures Met	Number of Unmet Measures	Number of Measures Containing Estimated or No Reports	Costs (in millions)
Goal #1: Improve the Health of Watersheds, Landscapes, and Marine Resources that are DOI Managed or Influenced in a Manner Consistent with Obligations Regarding the Allocation and Use of Water	14	7	5	\$911
Goal #2: Sustain Biological Communities on DOI Managed and Influenced Lands and Waters in a Manner Consistent with Obligations Regarding the Allocation and Use of Water	7	4	2	\$1,670
Goal #3: Protect Cultural and Natural Heritage Resources	4	3	2	\$466
Total	25	14	9	\$3,047
Percentage (Total of 48 Measures)	52%	29%	19%	

