

A Government



Dedicated...



*From Researching Renewable Energy Sources
to Preserving Wildlife Habitats, Federal Agencies
are Working to Protect our Environment.*

The U.S. Federal Government is the single largest consumer of goods and services in the U.S. and probably the world – spending more than \$200 billion annually - with an additional \$240 billion a year distributed through Federal Grants. With this kind of economic influence, and at this level of consumption, Federal Agencies are working to minimize environmental burdens. Regulatory agencies, like the Environmental Protection Agency that, by definition, exist to protect the environment, administer policies that influence legislation to regulate other agencies as well as private sector companies. Other agencies perform environmental research, support new technologies, or self regulate within the scope of a larger mission. What follows is an accounting of a number of Federal Agencies involved in activities that help protect our greatest natural resource, our environment. While this article attempts to highlight some of the more visible efforts of certain agencies, it does not encompass all environmental activities of the Federal Government.

Department of the Interior

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior is a massive organization employing over 200,000 employees and volunteers. DOI's main focus is the management of 507 million acres of land, about one-fifth of the land in the United States.

DOI's Bureau of Land Management manages 1,600 recreational sites including parks, monuments, seashore sites, battlefields, other cultural and recreational sites and wildlife refuges. The management of this amount of land is a huge undertaking and is supported by a number of DOI activities including the U.S. Geological Survey, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Reclamation.

U.S. Geological Survey scientists conduct a wide range of research in the U.S. on biology, geology, and water resources to assist in land and resource management. They provide the information needed so land managers can make sound decisions and help mitigate the effects of natural hazards. This includes researching and monitoring earthquakes, volcanoes, water quality, streamflows and ground water at thousands of sites across the U.S. The USGS also produces more than 100,000 maps, and estimates global and national energy and mineral supplies.

Fish and Wildlife works to conserve, manage, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats. DOI is responsible for improving habitats for migratory birds, certain marine animals, freshwater and anadromous fish, as well as providing public enjoyment of these resources. DOI protects 1,260 endangered or threatened species in the U.S. and works to prevent and control invasive species.

DOI's main focus is the management of 507 million acres of land.



Egrets take flight during their migration

The Bureau of Reclamation manages a variety of water and underwater resources, including 456 dams and 348 reservoirs, that deliver irrigation water to one of every five western farmers, and provide water for 31 million people. Reclamation's mission places emphasis on water conservation, recycling, and reuse; developing partnerships with customers, States, and Tribes; and finding ways to bring competing interests together to address everyone's needs. The bureau strives to meet increasing water demands while protecting the environment and the public's investment.

The Minerals Management Service has jurisdiction over approximately 1.76 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), on which it manages about 7,600 active oil and gas leases. MMS remains especially mindful of safety and environmental concerns, working to achieve the proper balance between providing a domestic energy source for the American people, and protecting sensitive coastal and marine habitats.

MMS funds over 900 environmental research projects allocating more than \$650 million dollars to date. This research gives MMS the most-up-to-date data about the effects of OCS activities on the marine, coastal, and human environments. These studies encompass biological, physical oceanographic, ecological, and socioeconomic issues associated with offshore mineral leasing and development. Recently, the agency launched a three-year research effort with the University of California, Santa Barbara, and Louisiana State University to examine whether offshore platform legs may contain marine organisms with biotechnology applications.

Glen Canyon Dam

A GOVERNMENT DEDICATED...



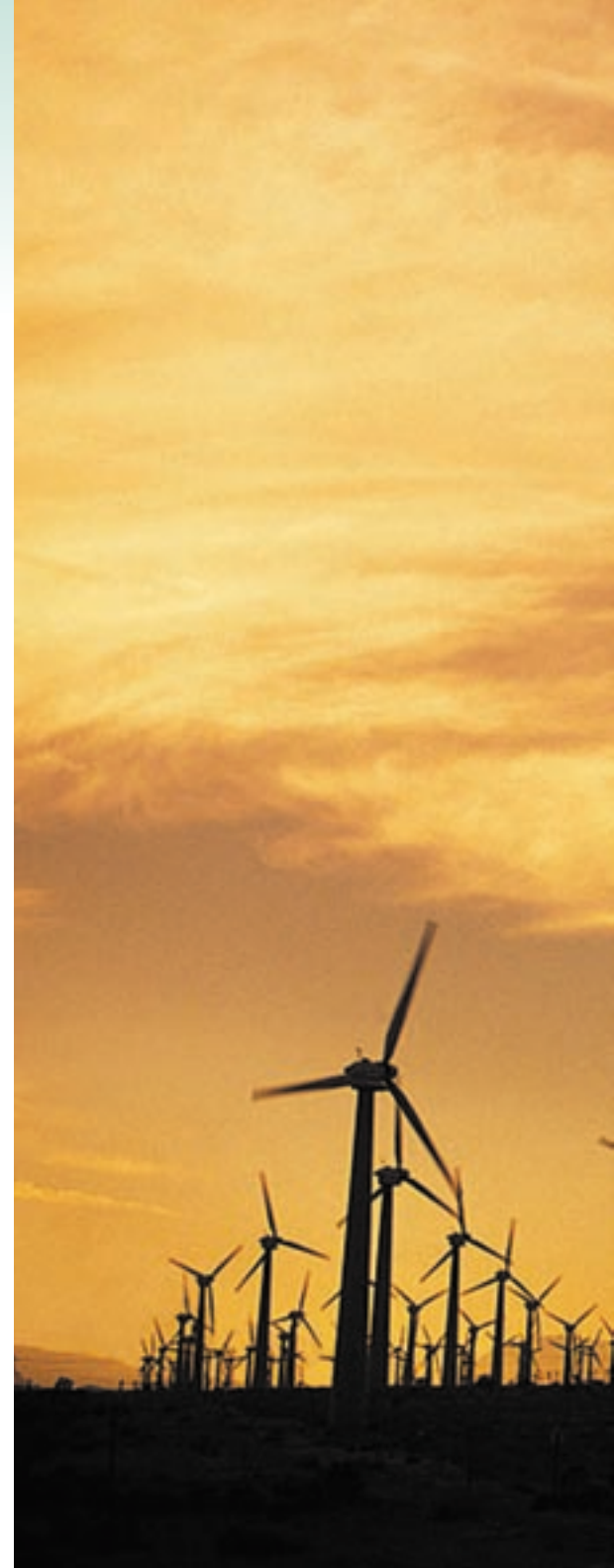
Department of Energy

The origins of the Department of Energy (DOE) begin with the energy crisis of the 1970's which demonstrated the need for a unified energy policy within the U.S. The subsequent creation of the department combined Federal Government energy related activities into a single organization. The Department of Energy's fundamental mission is to enhance national security, and responsibility for accomplishing this mission is shared between four principal program lines: National Defense, Energy, Environmental, and Science. Of these four main programs each is involved their own environmental activities.

By definition, DOE's environmental program exists to ensure that safety legacies of the Cold War are permanently and safely addressed in a manner that does not impede future national security missions.

In support of National Defense, DOE ensures the integrity and safety of the country's nuclear weapons, promoting international nuclear safety, and continuing to provide safe, efficient and effective nuclear power plants for the U.S. Navy.

DOE's science program leads the charge in the research and development of cutting edge technology to revolutionize how energy is found, produced and delivered. DOE works to transform energy conservation and efficiency, and promotes the development and use of renewable and alternative energy sources.



Wind Turbines — North Dakota alone has enough wind to supply 35% of the total U.S. electricity demand.



The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)

NREL's mission is to develop renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies and practices, advance related science and engineering, and transfer knowledge and innovations to address the nation's energy and environmental goals. NREL conducts research on a wide range of promising environmentally friendly energy sources.

The sunlight falling on the United States in one day contains more than twice the energy consumed in an entire year. Clean energy sources such as sunlight and wind can be harnessed to produce electricity, process heat, fuel and valuable chemicals with little, if any, pollution. Sunlight also can be harnessed for tasks such as cleaning up contaminated soil and groundwater. Fast-growing plants and

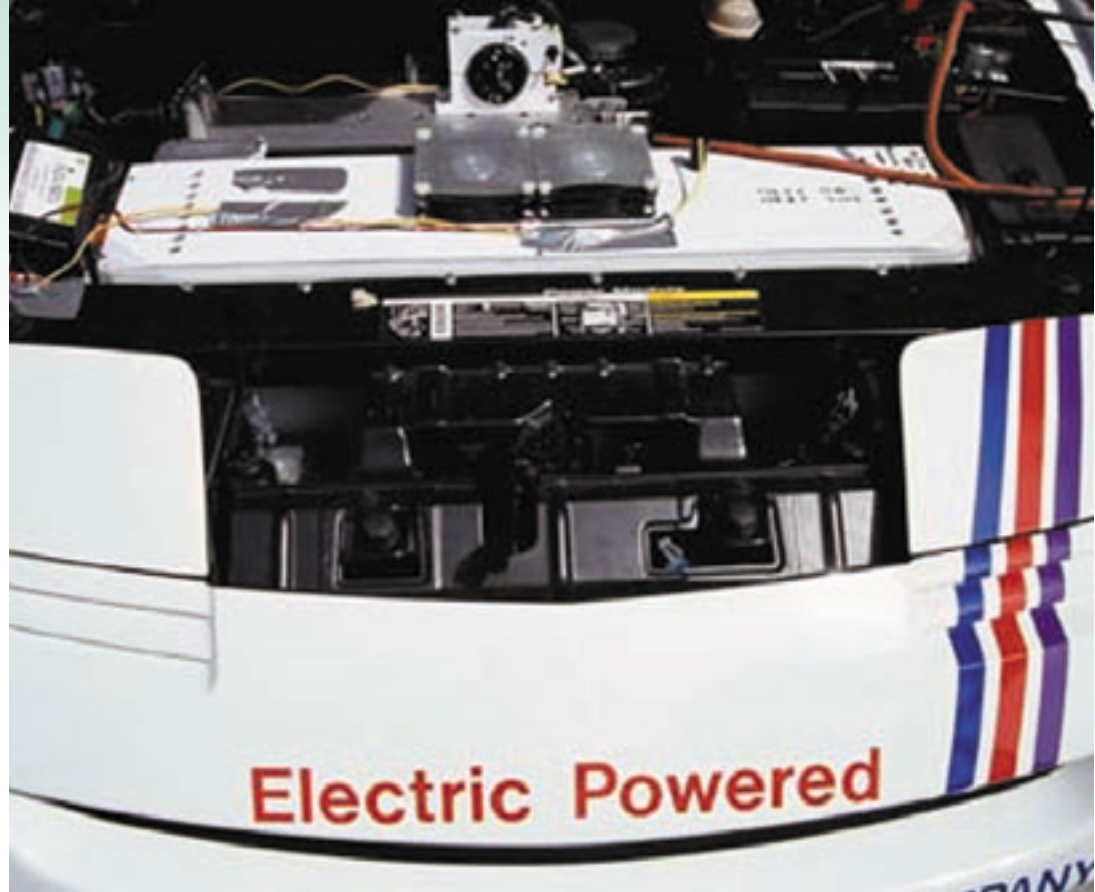
other self-renewing resources are ready to be harvested for use in new technologies. Renewable energy research being conducted at NREL will ensure that these emerging technologies are efficient, reliable and affordable. NREL works with utilities, state regulatory agencies, the World Bank, and international trade groups to ensure renewable energy technologies reach the marketplace as quickly as possible.

The economic benefits of renewable energy are significant. In 2000, America imported more than half its oil at a cost of \$109 billion according to the Energy Information Administration (EIA). New energy technologies based on indigenous, self-renewing resources will help keep these dollars at home to strengthen the economy and create new jobs.

Federal Energy Management Program

The U.S. Department of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) operated under the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, works to reduce government spending by advancing energy efficiency, water conservation, and the use of solar and other renewable energy at Federal facilities.

FEMP assists government agencies in achieving their goals for conservation goals, using renewable energy systems, and reducing energy costs through special U.S. DOE contracts and services. Such as Super Energy Savings Performance Contracts and Utility Energy Services Contracts. FEMP also provides technical and procurement assistance at minimal cost to agencies. FEMP recommendations help Federal buyers determine which products qualify among the top 25% of efficiency and identify the Federal supply sources that offer these products, including GSA. GSA's Federal Supply Service is a major participant in this program, and offers the majority of FEMP recommended products through the Federal Supply System.



**Electric Powered Cars -
energy efficient and
environmentally-responsible.**

The economic benefits of renewable energy are significant. New energy technologies... will help strengthen the economy and create new jobs.

Environmental Protection Agency

EPA leads the charge to support environmental science, research, education and assessment efforts. The agency partners with Federal, state, local, and tribal organizations to enforce environmental regulations and laws. EPA sets national standards for a variety of environmental concerns and delegates to local organizations responsibility for issuing permits and monitoring and enforcing compliance. When national standards are not met, EPA has the authority to issue sanctions and take steps to assist the states and tribes in reaching desired levels of environmental quality. The agency also works with industries and all levels of government in a wide variety of voluntary pollution prevention programs and energy conservation efforts.

EPA retains a highly educated, technically trained staff, consisting largely of engineers, scientists, and environmental protection specialists. There are a number of programs to encourage Federal agencies to improve energy efficiency and meet greenhouse gas reduction goals. With the Energy Star Program, agencies can optimize energy, fiscal, and environmental performance. To make energy-efficient products easily identifiable, EPA and DOE award the Energy Star® label to manufacturers for each energy consuming product that meets established efficiency specifications.

Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) works to leverage the tremendous influence and purchasing power of the United States government to minimize environmental burdens. EPP is a Federal-wide program that encourages and assists executive agencies in the purchasing of environmentally preferable products and services.

**EPA's mission is protect
the natural environment —
air, water, and land.**



National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration

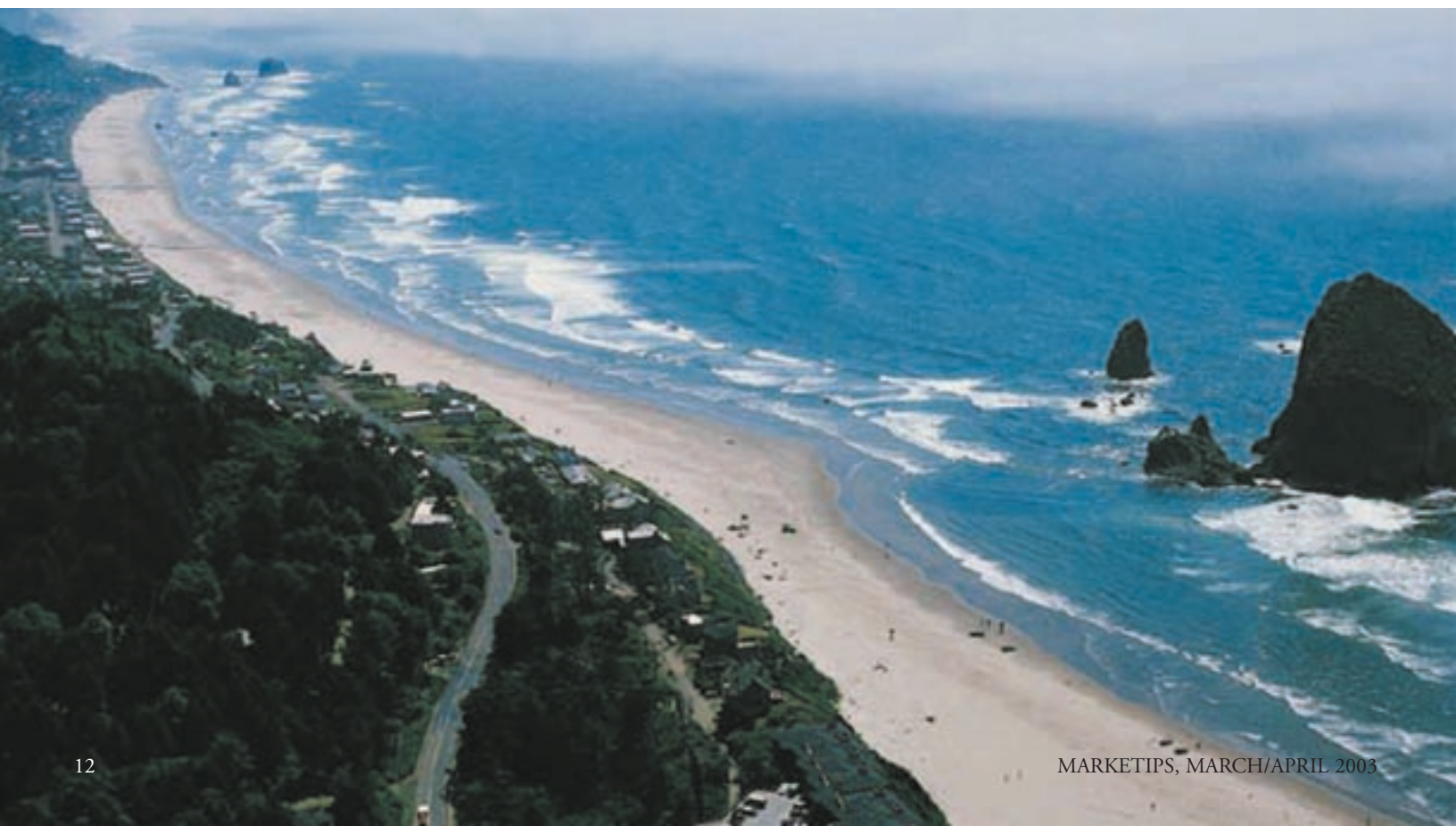
The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) conducts global research and gathers data about the oceans, atmosphere, space, and the sun, and utilizes it for scientific and practical applications. NOAA warns of dangerous weather, charts seas and skies, guides the use and protection of ocean and coastal resources, and conducts research to improve the understanding and management of our environment. NOAA consists of five organizations that work to accomplish these tasks: the National Weather Service, the National Ocean Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service, and NOAA Research.

National Weather Service

The National Weather Service (NWS) uses weather satellites, Doppler radar, automated surface observing systems, sophisticated computer models, high-speed communications systems, flying meteorological platforms, and a highly-trained and skilled workforce to issue thousands of weather and flood forecasts and severe weather warnings annually. The weather service recently deployed the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System, the final piece of technology in a \$4.5 billion modernization program to improve climate, water, and weather products and services that help protect life and property and enhance the economy. One estimate is that the NWS's highly accurate long-range predictions for the 1997-98 El Niño episode helped California avert about \$1 billion in losses. NWS data is a national resource. Government agencies, private companies, the media, universities and the public all use NWS data.

NOAA warns of dangerous weather, charts our seas and skies, guides our use and protection of ocean and coastal resources.

Aerial view of Cannon Beach, Oregon



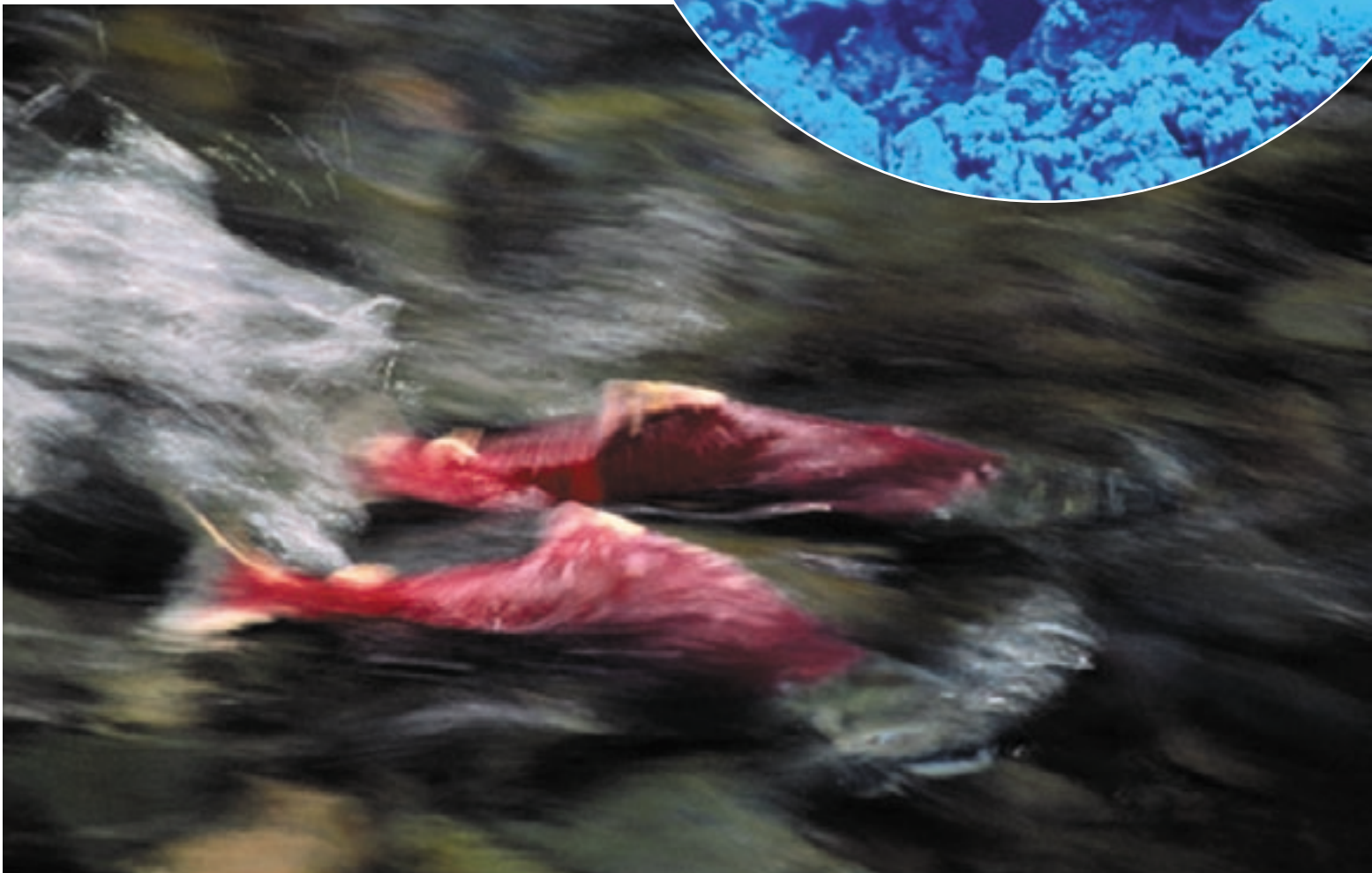
National Ocean Service

NOS is the nation's principal advocate for coastal and ocean management. As the trustee for 12 marine protected areas, NOAA protects National Marine Sanctuaries, each with a specific goal. While one may protect the breeding ground of humpback whales, another preserves the remains of shipwrecks, and still another protects coral reef colonies. The sanctuary program works to preserve, protect, and respect our nation's marine environment.

Protecting Fisheries and Marine Mammals

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service manages the sustainable use of living marine resources, striving to balance competing public needs in the use and enjoyment of those resources while preserving their biological integrity. Two recent examples include working with both industry and conservationists in an effort to rebuild swordfish stocks, and developing an innovative, long-term strategy for restoring threatened and endangered salmon in the Pacific Northwest.

Whitetip shark glides through a coral reef



NOAA's is working hard to help restore the threatened and endangered salmon of the Pacific Northwest



Environmental Data and Satellite Images

NOAA's cooperative weather observers comprise a network of more than 10,000 National Weather Service volunteers across the country. This network continues the tradition of taking daily weather measurements that become part of climate records. These records, along with other official records from various agencies around the world, are housed at the National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C. The center, the largest active archive of climate data in the world, is part of NOAA's National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service. In addition to the climate center, NESDIS also operates the National Geophysical Data Center in Boulder, Colorado, and the National Oceanographic Data Center in Silver Spring, Maryland. Scientists from around the world use data from these centers to study our environment.

In the past 40 years, NOAA's satellites have evolved from weather satellites to environmental satellites. Data is used for applications related to the oceans, coastal regions, agriculture, detection of forest fires, detection of volcanic ash, monitoring the ozone hole over the South Pole, and the space environment.

Mount Sentinel, Missoula, Montana

NOAA Research

NOAA research results in better weather forecasts, longer warning lead times for natural disasters, new products from the sea, and a greater understanding of our climate, atmosphere and oceans. Much of NOAA research is done aboard ships, aloft in planes, and beneath the sea in the world's only undersea habitat. NOAA research and operational activities are supported NOAA Corps, a commissioned officer corps of men and women who operate NOAA ships and aircraft, and serve in scientific and administrative posts.

From 19th century beginnings to more than 30 years as a Federal agency, NOAA has evolved into a science agency with conservation management and regulatory responsibilities. The agency continues to observe, monitor, and collect information about our world in a quest to both protect the environment and improve the human condition.



Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Founded by President Lincoln in 1862, the USDA is a large Federal agency with far-reaching impact. USDA fights hunger at home through food stamp and school lunch programs and provides food aid abroad. The USDA also researches human nutrition and new crop technologies, and provides rural communities with telecommunications and safe drinking water. Through these efforts, the USDA continues Lincoln's legacy of creating 'the people's department.'

The USDA manages 192 million acres of national forest and rangelands and as the country's largest conservation agency, advocates and encourages the protection of soil, water and wildlife on the 70% privately owned land in America.

The Forest Service

Forest Service personnel manage a total of 191 million acres of land, an area equivalent to the size of Texas. The Forest Service is also the largest forestry research organization in the world, and provides technical and financial assistance to public and private agencies. Opportunity for public enjoyment of these lands balanced with protection and conservation is at the heart of the Forest Service mission – to provide the greatest amount of good for the greatest amount of people in the long run.

2002 was the worst fire season in history with the loss of more than 5.9 acres. This coupled with fire suppression policies, and seasonal droughts, national forests are in crisis. In August of 2002, President Bush announced his Healthy Forests Initiative. The initiative has two major goals:

- To significantly step up efforts to prevent the damage caused by catastrophic wildfires by reducing unnecessary regulatory obstacles that hinder active forest management.
- To work with Congress to pass legislation that addresses the unhealthy forest crisis by expediting procedures for forest thinning and restoration projects; and fulfill the promise of the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan to ensure the sustainable forest management and appropriate timber production.

USDA's Forest Service is at the forefront implementing new policies and legislation to protect our national forests and grasslands.



Natural Resources Conservation Service

The vision of USDA's NRCS is to achieve harmony between people and the land through their mission to help people preserve, conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

There are a number of important initiatives the NRCS is working on, one of the most significant is the 2002 Farm Bill. This landmark legislation focuses on conservation funding and environmental issues. The conservation provisions aim to assist farmers and ranchers in meeting environmental challenges on their land. The legislation also creates new programs for high priority environmental and production goals, and will ultimately enhance the long-term quality of our environment and conservation of our natural resources.

Another important program NRCS sponsors is the Conservation Technical Assistance Program, which provides conservation assistance to land users, communities, state and local governments, and other Federal agencies in planning and implementing conservation systems. The goal is to provide help in planning and implementing natural resource solutions to reduce erosion, improve soil health, improve water quantity and quality, improve and conserve wetlands, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, improve air quality, pasture and range health, reduce upstream flooding, improve woodlands, and address other natural resource issues.

Through NRCS, USDA sponsors a large number of conservation programs that provide environmental, societal, financial, and technical benefits. Specific program benefits include sustaining and improving agricultural productivity, cleaner, safer, more dependable water supplies, reduced damage from floods and other natural disasters and enhanced natural resource bases that support continuing economic development, recreation and other activities. It is through these programs that the USDA promotes the preservation of our environment and the health and well-being of the people who use it.

Sunflowers are being used as a natural pest control for organic tobacco farmers. The flowers attract birds and insects that help destroy insects in tobacco.



GSA, Working to Help Save Our Natural Resources

The nature of the mission of GSA places the agency in a pivotal role in the implementation of environmental policy. From an environmental management perspective, GSA's Public Buildings Service (PBS) presents opportunities to demonstrate solid waste minimization, pollution prevention, and energy conservation practices in the more than 1,100 Federal buildings and facilities that it manages. From a procurement perspective, the aggregate buying power of GSA's Federal Supply Service (FSS), to satisfy government wide demand, is perceived as a major factor in the eventual development, acceptance, and common use of environmental products and services in the private sector as well.

Federal buyers can locate a variety of environmental products and services by using GSA's Environmental Products and Services Guide (EPSG) which is available electronically on GSA's Environmental Programs web site (fss.gsa.gov/enviro). In addition to product and services information and the EPSG, the web site contains applicable laws and Executive Orders, as well as links to other agency sites, and information on various environmental organizations. For those customers who are unable to access the Internet, hard copies of the EPSG are available, at no charge, upon request, from the FSS Centralized Mailing List Service at (817)334-5215.

Waste Minimization

To help in the area of minimizing waste going into land-fills, FSS makes a wide variety of products available in its supply system that are made with recycled content, including those items designated by EPA, as referenced in Executive Order 13101. These items are known as the Comprehensive Procurement Guideline or CPG items, and are required to be purchased with specific minimum amounts of recovered material recycled content. CPG compliant products are products that meet or exceed the Environmental Protection Agency designated recycled-content range. There are over 1100 CPG compliant products available from FSS. The vast majority of these products are frequently used office supplies, such as copier paper and binders. Each CPG compliant product has a CPG designated icon symbol to distinguish it from the other environmental products and services listed in the EPSG and identified in *GSA Advantage!*[™].

There is no question of the validity of the concept of using recycled content products. Quality problems are just as much a fact of life with respect to virgin products as they can be with recycled content products.

GSA offers a wide range of products made with recycled content. All items identified and/or designated by EPA, i.e., the CPG items, that come under GSA's management are included, as well as many other items that are not required. Paper Products is the largest recycled content commodity grouping



(close to 1,000 items) with such products as copier paper and numerous other office supplies included. Non-paper office products includes such items as binders, desk-top accessories, waste and recycling containers, and 'remanufactured' toner cartridges, to name a few. Other commodity groupings include construction products, such as insulation, fiberboard, carpeting, and latex paint; landscaping products; park and recreation products; transportation products; and vehicular products.

Agencies also are required to consider items made of bio-based materials. There is considerable effort ongoing to make these kinds of items available in the FSS Supply System as well. A bio-based product is a commercial or industrial product (other than food or feed) that utilizes biological products or renewable domestic agricultural (plant, animal, and marine) or forestry materials.

Natural Resource Conservation and Pollution Prevention

Because of the close working relationship with EPA and DOE, and its cooperative interaction with industry, GSA is able to make a variety of energy and/or water savings products available in its FSS Supply System, as well as a whole host of paints, cleaning products, and other chemically related items that are less detrimental to the environment.

The items associated with resource conservation range from relatively simple products, such as low-flow showerheads, to somewhat more complex items, such as Energy Star computers, printers and other office equipment, as well as energy efficient household appliances. Each year, the Federal government spends an estimated \$10-20 billion to purchase energy related products. This equipment is responsible for an estimated \$3.5 billion in annual energy bills for Federal facilities.

Executive Order 13123, Greening the Government through Efficient Energy Management, requires agencies to purchase Energy Star® products, or energy-efficient products not covered by the Energy Star® program that are in the upper 25% of energy efficiency as designated by the



The Vehicle Acquisition Program of FSS purchases Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFV's) for customer agencies. These vehicles can run on ethanol, methanol, natural gas, or electricity. Not only do these vehicles help conserve natural resources, they also pollute less than conventional gasoline engines.



Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP). In addition, Executive Order 13321, Energy Efficient Standby Power Devices calls for Federal agencies to purchase products that use minimal standby power when they are commercially available.

The Energy Star® program is the easiest way to help buyers identify energy-efficient products. EPA and DOE have partnered to promote the specification and procurement of energy-efficient products. To make energy-efficient products easily identifiable, EPA and DOE award the Energy Star® label to manufacturers for each energy consuming product that meets EPA/DOE efficiency specifications. To receive more information on the Energy Star® program, you can either visit the Energy Star® web site at www.energystar.gov or call the Energy Star® hotline at 1-888-ENERGYSTAR.

Another way for buyers to identify energy-efficient products is to follow the Product Energy Efficiency Recommendations. These recommendations help Federal buyers determine which products qualify among the top 25% of efficiency and identify the Federal supply sources that offer these products, including GSA.

Some examples of Energy Star® and other energy-efficient products available from GSA include:

- Household and Commercial Appliances
- Computer Equipment (computes, scanners, printers etc)
- Construction Products
- Office Equipment (Copiers, Fax Machines)
- Electronic Equipment (DVD Players, Televisions, VCR's, Audio Equipment)
- Exit Signs
- Facility Management Systems
- Faucets
- Fluorescent Light Bulbs, Ballasts, Luminaries, and Tube Lamps
- Lighting Sensor Systems
- Transformers, low and medium voltage
- Residential Windows
- Roof Products
- Room Air Conditioners
- Showerheads
- Solar Outdoor Lighting
- Solar Pool Controls
- Solar Water Heater
- Solar Water Pump
- Solar Window Film
- Systems Capable of Both Security and Energy Management Functions
- Toilets
- Urinals
- Water Saving Technologies
- Water-Cooled Chillers
- Window Shades

The information contained in 'A Government Dedicated...' was derived from the following government website sources: Department of Interior (DOL.gov), Department of Energy (DOE.gov), National Renewable Energy Laboratory (nrel.gov), Environmental Protection Agency (epa.gov), National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (noaa.gov), Department of Agriculture (USDA.gov), Forest Service (fs.fed.us), Natural Resources Conservation Service (nrsc.usda.gov)



Environmental Services

GSA's Environmental Services Schedule 899 provides Federal agencies access to the full range of contract support for:

Planning and Documentation

Environmental impact statements and site assessments;

Compliance

Audits, management planning and pollution prevention surveys;

Environmental/Occupational Training

Conventional and customized courses, including software-based interactive training;

Waste Management

For hazard and exposure assessments, characterization studies, tracking or handling systems, planning, review of technologies and processes, and the management and operation of recycling programs;

Hazardous Materials Management Advisory

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) by compact disc, on-line via Internet, mail or facsimile (FAX); report, compliance, and tracking software, and other related software/services;

Remote Advisory

Off-site advisory services via Internet, FAX back, and telephone for hazardous spills, poisons, MSDSs, and other related services;

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

For complex environmental planning and management problems. Includes Mapping and Cartography, Natural Resource Planning, Migration Pattern Analysis, Pollution Analysis, Site Selection, and Emergency Preparedness Planning;

Remediation

Full range of services to clean up hazardous materials or a contaminated site including: evacuation, removal, manifesting, transportation, storage, treatment and/or disposal of hazardous materials; preparation characterization, field investigation, conservation and closure of sites; containment monitoring and/or reduction of hazardous waste sites; ordinance removal or support; long term monitoring and support.

Remember!

*GSA can assist you in meeting your environmental purchasing requirements.
Think green and buy green products and services from GSA!*