

# Bush Administration Accomplishments at the Department of the Interior

## Energy

- **Increased domestic production**

Since 2001 production from onshore Federal lands totals 702 million barrels of oil and 17 trillion cubic feet of natural gas – the equivalent of enough liquid fuel and natural gas to heat 60 million American homes for 6.5 years. Production from OCS leases totaled 3,900 million barrels of oil and 27 trillion cubic feet of natural gas – the equivalent of enough liquid fuel and natural gas to heat 60 million American homes for 15 years.



- **Initiated a new 5-year OCS program**

Following the lifting of the Executive Ban on drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf, DOI initiated the process to develop a new 5-year OCS Oil and Gas Development Program, which will accelerate the timetable to make new lands available for oil and gas production



- **Initiated development of oil shale resources**

The US possesses the largest reserves of oil shale in the world – the Green River formation in the Rocky Mountain West alone contains more than 800 billion barrels of oil equivalent, which is nearly 3 times the known reserves of Saudi Arabia.

Since 2001, the Department has undertaken the initial development of oil shale resources in the United States – authorizing 6 Research, Development and Demonstration products to determine the commercial viability of different extraction methods and laying out the rules and regulations under which commercial development will begin.



- **Expanded on-shore renewable energy production**

Since 2001, the Department has increased its focus on renewable energy production on public lands. It has issued more than 180 wind leases and 380 geothermal leases, creating more than 1,600 megawatts of capacity on public lands. DOI has processed more than 150 applications for utility scale solar energy projects on over 1 million acres of public land, and marketed 82,000 tons of biomass from public lands in 2007 alone.



- **Initiated New Off-shore Renewable Energy Production**

Following through on the direction from Congress, the Department has laid out the protocol for development of renewable energy on the Outer Continental Shelf. The protocol will allow for wind, wave, current and other types of renewable energy production from hundreds of thousands of acres of currently untapped land offshore.



## Land/ Resource Management

- **Healthy Forests Initiative**

Since 2001 the Department has reduced the risks to communities from the threat of catastrophic fire, conducting more than 10 million acres of fuels treatments on DOI lands through the Healthy Forests Initiative.



- **Healthy Lands Initiative**

The Department is meeting emerging challenges in resource management with broad, landscape-scale planning, restoration and conservation. The Healthy Lands Initiative allows land managers to better identify and protect wildlife corridors and other significant habitat. Through investments in habitat conservation and policy improvements it will protect world class habitat that sits atop world class energy reserves. Currently, initiative projects will protect, restore and improve more than 25 million acres.



- **Cooperative Conservation Initiative**

Since 2001, the Department has advanced President Bush's cooperative conservation agenda, promoting successful partnerships across the country and expanding opportunities to protect endangered and at-risk species. In 2006, Administration officials hosted a nationwide series of listening sessions on cooperative conservation and environmental partnerships, resulting in the Department's "Cooperative Conservation Enhancement Act." Since 2001, interior agencies have restored over 5 million acres through partnerships.



- **Wetland Conservation**

Since 2001, the Department has restored or enhanced more than 5,000 stream and shoreline miles in cooperation with others and restored, improved, and protected more than three million acres of wetlands, exceeding the President's goal to protect, enhance, and restore three million acres by 2009.



## National Parks

- **Centennial Initiative**

In August 2006, the Department of the Interior announced President Bush's National Park Centennial Initiative to revitalize our national parks in time for the National Park Service's 100th anniversary in 2016. The initiative consists of two parts: a \$1 billion increase in the National Park Service's operating budget over 10 years to hire new workers and maintain the parks; and \$1 billion of federal funding to match up to \$1 billion in philanthropic contributions for Centennial Projects across the country. Congress appropriated an increase of \$122.2 million over the 2007 enacted level for park operations and an initial \$25 million for Centennial Challenge programs and projects, which was leveraged with more than \$50 million in philanthropic funds to undertake the 110 projects at national parks.



- **Established new national parks**

Since 2001, under the Bush Administration seven new units of the National Park Service and the first two National Natural Landmarks in over 18 years have been created:

- Craters of the Moon National Preserve
- Flight 93 National Memorial
- Cedar Creek & Belle Grove National Historical Park
- National World War II Memorial
- Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site
- African Burial Ground National Monument
- Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site
- Ashfall Fossil Beds National Natural Landmark
- Irvine Ranch National Natural Landmark

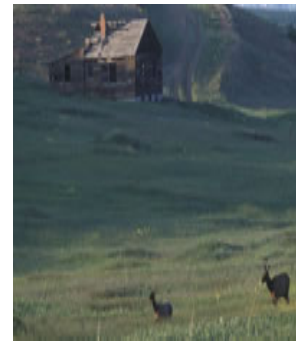


## National Wildlife Refuges/ Endangered Species Act

- **Established new refuges**

Since 2001, the Administration has created 15 new National Wildlife Refuges:

- Coldwater River NWR
- Vieques National Wildlife Refuge
- Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge
- Bayou Teche National Wildlife Refuge
- Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge
- Red River National Wildlife Refuge
- Cahaba National Wildlife Refuge
- Baca National Wildlife Refuge
- Mountain Longleaf National Wildlife Refuge
- Holt Collier National Wildlife Refuge
- Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge
- Glacial Ridge National Wildlife Refuge
- Neches River National Wildlife Refuge
- Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Area
- Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge



- **Rescued Species**

Since 2001, the Administration has put a renewed emphasis, under the Endangered Species Act, of protecting species so they don't need to be listed and recovering species already on the list. The Bald Eagle and the Grizzly Bear two success stories. Both have had their populations recovered and were able to be removed from the Endangered Species List.



- **Protected the Polar Bear**

After months of careful study and the development of new, cutting edge scientific techniques to properly identify, track and predict the effect of declining sea ice on polar bear populations worldwide, the Department proposed and then listed the polar bear as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. The Department further developed a Polar Bear action plan to help protect the bear.



- **Established Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument**

In 2006, President Bush announced the creation of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, for which the Department of the Interior has important management responsibility. The Monument is the largest single conservation area in our Nation's history. At 140,000 square miles, this area contains 2.7 million acres of coral reef, 14 million nesting seabirds, and 250 fish species; in total it includes about 7000 species, a quarter of which exist no where else on Earth.



## Indian Country

- **Improving Indian Education Initiative**

Currently 50% of middle school students in Indian schools attend new or refurbished schools as a result of the efforts of the Bush Administration. The Administration has committed more than \$1.7 billion to replace 32 schools and undertake major repairs at 42 other schools. The Department of Interior has additionally proposed an investment of \$40.5 million for an Improving Indian Education Initiative to improve student achievement at the 184 Indian schools it funds. These funds will be used to provide professional development and leadership training to teachers and principals, mentoring and tutoring to high school students and reading and math initiatives for elementary students.



- **Safe Indian Communities Initiatives**

Through the Safe Indian Communities Initiative to fight methamphetamine the Department has strengthened law enforcement on tribal lands. Additional funds have been used to hire more than 90 law enforcement and will be used to hire more officers in the coming years. They new officers will assist Tribes in addressing drug and other law enforcement issues in Indian Country.



- **Increased Energy Development on Indian Lands**

As part of its commitment to help develop economic opportunities in Indian Country and to increase domestic energy production, the Department of the Interior has helped develop oil, gas and renewable energy resources on tribal lands. Since 2001, the Department has disbursed more than \$2 billion in energy royalties to tribes.



## Water

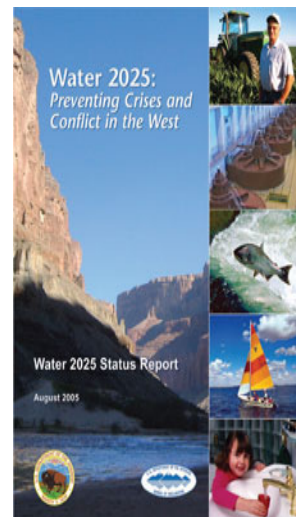
- **Colorado River**

The largest source of drinking water in the West, the Colorado River provides fresh water to seven states and has been the source of tension for generations. Beginning with the successful negotiation to limit California's use of excess Colorado River water in 2003, a situation 75 years in the making, and ultimately resulting in a historic Colorado River Water Users Agreement in 2007 which will allocate water from the river in both years of surplus and drought, the Department has succeed in bringing order and cooperation to water challengers in the West.



- **Water for America**

Water is the lifeblood of the American West and the foundation of its economy. Yet existing water supplies are, or will be, inadequate in many parts of the West. Launched in 2004, DOI's *Water for America* Initiative focuses on stretching existing water supplies through collaboration, basin planning, technology and innovative, market-based solutions. The initiative has provided 122 Challenge Grant projects, leveraging \$25.5 million in Federal funding with local partnerships into almost \$96 million in water management improvements in 16 western states. Those 122 projects create new water banks, promote the use of advanced technology to improve water management, and increase collaboration among Federal, State, tribal, and local entities.



- **Indian Water Rights Settlement Agreements**

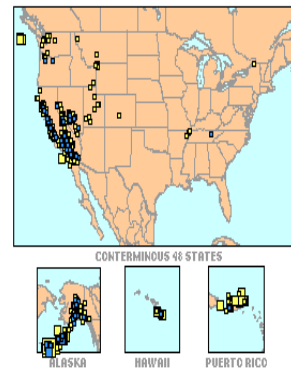
Since 2001, this Administration has sought to bring peace to water disputes throughout the country, focusing particular attention of Indian Water Rights, completing 4 water rights settlements since 2001.



## Community Development/ Protection

- **Hazard Warning**

Through the USGS, the Department of the Interior is responsible for the leading earth science research in the federal government. Through that talent and expertise, USGS has developed and implemented cutting-edge disaster monitoring. From a global 24/7 earthquake alert network, to increased volcanic monitoring, to support for NOAA's new world-wide tsunami detection system, the Department continues to increase our knowledge of the natural world and better inform and prepare people for natural disasters.



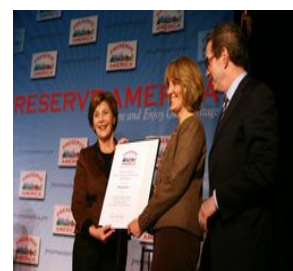
- **Earth Imaging**

In order to provide communities with a better understanding of the forces that impact and effect their decisions, the Department has committed to making the entire archive of Landsat images, dating back 35-years, available to the public, including other countries, at no cost. This historic access to earth imaging will allow leaders to see changes over time and better inform their decisions and planning as they meet the needs of their citizens.



- **Preserve America**

The Administration launched Preserve America, an initiative that encourages and supports community efforts to preserve and enjoy our cultural and natural heritage. Since its inception, nearly \$17 million has been awarded to support more than 220 Preserve America projects and more than 650 communities in all 50 states have been recognized for their efforts in historic preservation.



- **Take Pride in America**

Following on the President's call for increased volunteerism, the Department of the Interior reintroduced Take Pride in America in 2003. Originally created in 1985, Take Pride in America is a Department of the Interior program aimed at increasing volunteer service on America's public lands. In 2007, volunteers contributed 8.4 million hours of service valued at \$157 million dollars.



## Department Management

- **Effective, Efficient Management**

Through the President's Management Agenda, the Department completed the annual audit in record time, receiving, for the first time, a clean audit opinion without material weaknesses from an independent accounting firm. In 2001, it took five months to complete the annual audit of operations of the Department – and that audit contained 17 material weaknesses. In 2007, it took only 43 days to complete the department's financial audit and it contained no material weaknesses.

