

ENVIRONMENT

The President's 2008 Budget protects and preserves the environment:

- Launching the National Parks Centennial Initiative;
- Enhancing the ability to observe, protect, and manage the Earth's resources;
- Securing critical water infrastructure;
- Improving our nation's water quality and supplies;
- Working with States and other nations to reduce air pollution; and
- Partnering for cooperative conservation.

Launching the National Parks Centennial Initiative: Our national parks are American icons; they embody a national commitment to conservation, preservation and family enjoyment. The President's 2008 Budget will provide funding for:

- National Parks Centennial Initiative: Up to \$3 billion in new funds over 10 years to improve and protect national parks for the next century.
 - A commitment of \$100 million to achieve new levels of excellence in our parks.
 - A challenge for the public to donate at least \$100 million in support of our parks.
 - A match of up to \$100 million for donations to signature projects and programs.
- For Park Operations: \$250 million more than requested in 2006 and 40 percent higher than when President Bush took office -- the largest increase ever.

Enhancing the ability to observe, protect, and manage the Earth's resources

- Ocean Action Plan and the Ocean Research Priorities Plan and Implementation Strategy: Conserving ocean and coastal resources with \$143 million in new funding to advance ocean science and research (\$80 million), protect and restore coastal and marine areas (\$38 million), and end overfishing and ensure sustainable use of ocean resources (\$25 million).
- Advancing Ocean Science and Research: The Budget provides a total of \$40 million to address near-term ocean research priorities established by the Ocean Research Priorities Plan. New funding to address these priorities is provided to NOAA, NSF, and USGS. These interagency efforts will build upon and include ongoing activities at multiple agencies. The Budget also proposes \$8 million to define the outer limits of the U.S. continental shelf (areas beyond 200 miles from the U.S. coast that meet certain geological criteria). Defining those limits will allow the U.S. to confirm its resource rights, which contain an estimated \$1.2 trillion worth of resources. In addition, \$32 million is included for NOAA to develop an operational ocean monitoring network, for technology and other infrastructure to support ocean science, for International Polar Year activities, and for research on protected species and commercial fisheries. The Budget also continues funding for NSF's Oceans Observations Initiative, which will provide important infrastructure to support sustained ocean observations and research.
- Protecting and Restoring Coastal and Marine Areas: The Budget includes \$8 million to support the management of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument, which the President designated in June 2006. The Monument, which protects over 4,500 square miles of coral reefs and over 7,000 marine species, is the largest single conservation area in the world. An additional \$30 million is

provided to work with State and local partners to protect valuable coastal and marine habitat, including a project to eventually restore nearly 1000 stream miles of habitat for endangered Atlantic salmon and other fish species, critical projects in the Klamath Basin, and projects in the Gulf of Mexico identified as priorities by the Gulf of Mexico Regional Alliance articulated in the *Governors' Action Plan for Healthy and Resilient Coasts*, released by the Governors of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas.

- Ending Overfishing and Ensuring Sustainable Use of Ocean Resources: Following the historic bipartisan commitment to end overfishing with reauthorization of the Magnuson Stevens Fisheries Conservation Act, the President requests \$20 million to implement requirements of the legislation. This includes funding (\$6M) to facilitate market-based approaches to fisheries management such as Limited Access Privilege (LAP) programs that provide exclusive privileges to harvest a quantity of fish. The Administration has set a goal of doubling the number of LAP systems in use by the year 2010. The President requests \$3 million to ensure sustainable access to seafood through offshore aquaculture. The Administration has proposed legislation to establish clear regulatory authority and permitting processes for offshore aquaculture in order to encourage and facilitate development of environmentally sustainable commercial opportunities. Funding is also provided for NOAA to meet the management challenges of assessing and mitigating the impacts of sound from human activities, such as national defense readiness and energy exploration and development on marine mammals (\$2M).

Securing critical water infrastructure: The adoption of surveillance systems by drinking water utilities in high threat cities is a critical component of water infrastructure protection.

- The Water Security Initiative: A joint Federal and state project that will work to reduce the risk of contamination, plan emergency responses to drinking water crises and provide water security training to local officials.

Improving our nation's water resources and supplies: The Administration has made it a priority to ensure that America's water sources meet safety standards for clean and drinkable water.

- The Great Lakes Legacy Act: \$35 million to clean up harmful industrial pollutants dumped into the Great Lakes that could harm food sources and human health.
- Chesapeake Bay Program: \$29 million to help restore the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay.
- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund: \$842 million in new capitalization to improve access to safe drinking water.
- Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule: Uses an innovative risk-based cryptosporidium monitoring approach to target the most vulnerable drinking water systems.
- Water 2025 Initiative: \$11 million to improve water management through water conservation, efficiency and water marketing efforts, while securing reliable water sources in the West.
- Private activity bonds for water infrastructure: Expands the availability of tax-exempt capital to municipalities that implement full-cost pricing for water services, helping drinking water and wastewater systems become self-financing like other utilities and reducing the need for future Federal financing.

Working with States and other nations to reduce air pollution:

- Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR): Reduces power plant emissions of sulfur dioxide by more than 70 percent and nitrogen oxides emissions by more than 60 percent from 2003 levels in the Eastern U.S.
- Clean Air Mercury Rule (CAMR): The CAMR builds on the progress of CAIR and, when fully implemented, these rules will reduce utility emissions of mercury nearly 70 percent.
- Highway Diesel Rule: Makes highway diesel engine emissions up to 95 percent cleaner than current models starting in 2007.
- Non-Road Diesel Rule: Reduces sulfur in off-highway diesel fuel by more than 99 percent by 2010 and reduces non-road diesel engine emissions by more than 90 percent starting in 2008.
- The Asia-Pacific Partnership (APP): Works with international partners, Australia, China, India, Japan and South Korea, to promote U.S. and partner exports in the field of clean energy and environmental goods and services.
- Methane to Markets Partnership: Advances the recovery and use of methane as a clean energy source.

Partnering for cooperative conservation: Conserving our native fishes, migratory birds, at-risk species and marine environments is a shared goal among federal, state and local governments.

- Conservation Tax Incentive: Permanently extend the deductions for lands donated for conservation purposes, thereby helping "land-rich, cash-poor" land owners, such as farmers and ranchers, that donate lands for open space and other conservation goals.
- North American Wetlands Conservation Act: Conservation program designed to protect wetlands and upland habitats that waterfowl and other migratory birds need for survival.
- Open Rivers Initiative: \$12 million to repair river ecosystems and enhances populations of key species by removing small, obsolete dams and river barriers.
- Penobscot River Restoration: Provides federal funding for a Federal-State-private project to restore nearly 1,000 miles of habitat for endangered Atlantic salmon and several other species, by purchasing and removing or modifying three dams along the Penobscot River.