

FULFILLING LANDS LEGACY



As our communities grow, our commitment to conservation must continue to grow. Tonight, I propose creating a permanent conservation fund, to restore wildlife, protect coastlines, save natural treasures, from the California redwoods to the Florida Everglades. This Lands Legacy endowment would represent by far the most enduring investment in land preservation ever proposed in this House. I hope we can get together with all the people with different ideas and do this. This is a gift we should give our children and our grandchildren for all time, across party lines.

President Bill Clinton, State of the Union Address, January 27, 2000

At the beginning of the 20th Century, Theodore Roosevelt had the foresight to embrace a conservation legacy that is still admired and cherished. As Roosevelt said, "It is the growing Nation with a future which takes the long look ahead." His vision shaped the creation of the Nation's first wildlife refuge at Pelican Island, and he established the Grand Canyon as a national monument. Americans have come to realize that not only must they continue to protect important Federal lands, but they must address the concerns in their own backyard – the threat of over development and the loss of wildlife habitat.

Throughout the Nation the overriding issue confronting State and local public officials is how to preserve open space in the face of growing populations, increasing demand for land and water resources, traffic congestion, and other pressures. Around the country voters have approved in the last several years nearly 200 initiatives aimed at controlling or limiting sprawl, preserving open space, and improving their communities. Citizens once again recognize the importance of Fredrick Law Olmstead's vision of open space

accessible to the public. The country now has an opportunity to take the "long look ahead," protect lands of national significance and the next great places, and address the needs of communities in tackling the problems of the 21st Century.

The second year of President Clinton's Lands Legacy Initiative builds on America's commitment to its natural environment through the preservation of our public lands and national treasures, and through partnerships with States and local communities to protect open spaces and natural resources. The 2001 budget proposes to double 2000 enacted funding, for a total of \$1.4 billion. The Administration proposes a new budget category to provide dedicated, protected discretionary funding for the programs included in the Initiative. Funds not appropriated to programs within the proposed cap of \$1.4 billion will be unavailable to offset spending under other discretionary funding caps.

The Department of the Interior's 2001 budget includes \$735.0 million in support of the Lands Legacy Initiative. The Lands Legacy Initiative

includes the Federal land acquisition program and the State Conservation Grants program, both of which are funded from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, for a total of \$470.0 million. It also includes \$265.0 million to allow the Department to assist States, local, and tribal governments to help protect and create park lands, open space, and wildlife habitat through a variety of existing programs, such as the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund and innovative new approaches, such as State Non-Game Wildlife Grants. A comparison of 2000 and 2001 funding is included in Appendix B.

**FEDERAL LAND ACQUISITION:
PROTECTING NATURAL TREASURES
AND THE NEXT GREAT PLACES**

I have been traveling around the country talking to Americans about land conservation in their communities... They want more parks and recreation areas, more wildlife habitat, they want to save Civil War and Revolutionary War battlefields before they fall under the bulldozers of development and they want to set aside buffer lands to combat urban sprawl.

Secretary Bruce Babbitt, October 4, 1999

The goal of the Federal land acquisition portion of the Lands Legacy Initiative is to save nationally significant tracts of land from further development and protect existing parks, refuges, and other public lands from encroaching development. The 2001 request continues efforts to acquire lands necessary to protect tracts in or near the California Desert, Civil War battlefields, the Everglades, and the Lewis and Clark Trail. In addition to these areas, Interior proposes land acquisitions for 2001 to protect unique and critical natural resources in four areas: the New Jersey – New York watershed; the Lower Mississippi Delta; Southern California; and the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

California Desert

Forty million people now live within a day’s drive of the deserts of southern California, an area that encompasses 25 million acres. Residents and a

LANDS LEGACY DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR (dollars in millions)	
LWCF Funding	
Federal Land Acquisition	
BLM.....	60.9
FWS	111.6
NPS	147.5
State Conservation Grants	<u>150.0</u>
Subtotal	470.0
State Non-Game Wildlife Grants	
State Planning Partnerships	50.0
Cooperative Endangered Species	
Conservation Fund	65.0
North American Wetland	
Conservation Fund	30.0
Urban Parks and Recreation	
Recovery Program	<u>20.0</u>
Total	735.0

large number of visitors value these lands for their rugged beauty and the diverse recreational opportunities they afford, including off-highway vehicle use and backcountry camping. The desert is home to many sensitive species, including the Federally protected desert tortoise and southwestern willow flycatcher, and to a unique ecology that requires permanent protection. Congress recognized these one-of-a-kind resources, and the need to carve out some special status for them, in passing the California Desert Protection Act of 1994. To further these goals, the Department proposes an additional \$15.0 million to complete acquisition of 487,000 acres of Catellus properties in the California Desert. Acquisition of some of these properties will eliminate inholdings in wilderness areas. Other properties will add to protection of the unique ecological value of the desert area. This special acquisition opportunity is complemented by lands donated to the Federal government by the Wildlands Conservancy. Over two years, the Wildlands Conservancy will contribute nearly \$19.0 million and about 191,000 acres to facilitate land transactions in the California Desert. These contributions to the largest land acquisition in California’s history have an estimated value to the American taxpayer of nearly \$49 million.

Civil War Battlefields

The Civil War is central to the American story and we need to protect the battlefields so future generations can walk them and feel the power of their history...."

Secretary Bruce Babbitt, September 21, 1999

Civil War battlefields, once distant from urban areas, are now surrounded by and are important assets of our communities. These hallowed sites are increasingly threatened by development. In 2000, seven battlefields received additional funding for land acquisition. The 2001 Lands Legacy Initiative continues the second year of a multi-year effort to acquire all remaining acres within the boundaries of authorized NPS Civil War battlefields. In 2001, the request totals \$22.0 million for Manassas National Battlefield Park and Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania National Military Park in Virginia, Vicksburg National Military Park in Mississippi, Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania, Monocacy National Battlefield in Maryland, and Harper's Ferry National Historical Park in West Virginia.



Everglades

Land acquisition is a key component to re-establishing a healthy and sustainable Everglades ecosystem. Since 1993, the Department has acquired over 1.32 million acres of land in the Everglades. Adequate land is needed to increase overall water storage capacity and assist in improving water quality, to provide protection between natural and urban areas, and to provide habitat protection and additional recreation. In 2001, the Department plans to devote an additional \$80.0 million to land acquisition in the Everglades region. Of this amount, \$33.0 million will acquire an additional 1,998 acres at national wildlife refuges and national parks, including Lake Wales Ridge, Florida Keys Refuge Complex, Crocodile Lake, J. N. "Ding" Darling Complex, Florida Panther, Archie Carr, Pelican Island, and at the NPS Big Cypress National Park and Preserve. These acquisitions will preserve critical wildlife habitat and add to the restoration of the ecosystem. A total of \$47.0 million of the NPS Federal land acquisition request is for a matching grant to the State of Florida to continue acquisition for high priority lands for restoration purposes.

Everglades Restoration Partnerships

Restoration of the Everglades and the South Florida ecosystem is one of the most significant environmental initiatives of this Administration. Historically, this ecosystem contained some of the most diverse habitats on earth. The natural systems no longer exhibit the richness that defined the ecosystem before drainage and development. However, partnerships involving Federal, State, local, and tribal governments, and private entities have been formed and are leading restoration efforts. Interior chairs one such partnership, the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, which coordinates ongoing restoration among all landowners.

In 2001, Interior will work with the Congress to authorize implementation of the Central and South Florida Project Comprehensive Review Study (commonly referred to as "the Restudy") that was submitted to Congress on July 1, 1999, and resolve many of the outstanding technical issues presented by the Modified Water Delivery Project. This project will restore more natural hydrologic conditions and water flow within Everglades National Park and is a baseline condition for the Restudy. The 2001 Interior budget continues the Administration's commitment to Everglades restoration. The budget request totals \$143.8 million, an increase of \$940,000 over 2000.

Lewis and Clark

To continue preparations for the commemoration of the bicentennial of the historic journey of Lewis and Clark from Missouri to the Pacific Ocean,



Interior proposes a total of \$11.6 million for acquisitions of important lands along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. Land acquisitions to add to the existing refuges, parks, and public lands will protect viewsheds and historic sites along the corridor and will be done in partnership with local communities. The land acquisitions will include the Upper Missouri River Wild and Scenic River, and the Chain of Lakes, both part of the Trail; the Fish and Wildlife Service's Western Montana Complex; the North Dakota Prairie National Wildlife Refuge; Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge in Nebraska; and the Nez Perce National Historic Preserve in Idaho.

Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration

The Department of the Interior manages park units, refuges, and other public lands along the trail that Merriweather Lewis and William Clark traveled almost 200 years ago. To safeguard Indian history and culture, protect natural resources, and build the infrastructure and services needed to respond to the anticipated increases in visitation, Interior is requesting increases totaling \$6.3 million in 2001 for operating budgets of the land management agencies, BOR, and USGS. The increases are the first increment of a multi-year plan to prepare for and support the bicentennial in 2003 - 2006 and will allow the agencies to restore native habitat at Lemhi Pass, restore habitat along the Blackfoot River, repair facilities at Sacagawea Homeland, and install interpretive signing and trail access at Dillon Headwaters.

Lower Mississippi Delta

The Lower Mississippi Delta, encompassing 80 million acres in the heart of America, is rich in cultural, historical, and ecological values. Important cultural and historical sites include American Indian mounds and Civil War battlefields and sites commemorating the development of an influential musical genre, the Delta Blues. The importance of this area to migrating birds, waterfowl, fish, and other animals that use the backwaters and bayous have impacts on communities far beyond the area. In addition to fish and wildlife habitat, these lands provide important water quality protection, flood control, and recreational opportunities. However, about 80 percent of historic bottom hardwoods have been lost and 25 to 35 square miles of coastal wetlands are being lost each year. Proposed land acquisitions to protect some of the last remaining bottomland hardwood forests and wetlands include \$6.0 million for Bayou Teche (part of Mandalay National Wildlife Refuge) and Cat Island in Louisiana, and Pond Creek National Wildlife Refuge in Arkansas. These projects will enhance existing partnerships to protect the Lower Mississippi Delta, provide recreation opportunities to local residents, and support the continued growth of the eco-tourism industry.



Regional Investments in the Lower Mississippi Delta

In addition to land acquisition, the Department operates other programs benefiting the Mississippi Delta.

The USGS requests \$7.0 million for coastal wetlands studies, mapping of land subsidence and changes in sea level, pollutant and sediment studies, and water quality studies focusing on causes of hypoxia. An increase of \$2.0 million is requested to develop simulation models to predict groundwater withdrawals and restoration of engineered river systems.

A total of \$19.7 million is requested for the operation of park units in the Lower Mississippi Delta, an increase of \$1.2 million over 2000. With a modest \$150,000 for the Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program, NPS will provide assistance for locally led conservation initiatives that will preserve cultural and natural resources and establish trails and green spaces and support American Heritage River projects. The NPS will support legislation allowing the Service to study how best to protect Civil War battlefields and other historic and cultural sites along the Vicksburg Civil War Campaign in Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee and, Louisiana.

The FWS will continue work on recovery of the Louisiana black bear and on habitat recovery through voluntary programs with willing landowners to increase the rate of reforestation and restoration of wetlands. In addition, FWS will request \$18.1 million in 2001 to operate and maintain 45 refuges in this area, including an increase of \$687,000 to enhance invasive species control and habitat restoration.

New Jersey-New York Watershed

Within the densely populated New Jersey-New York watershed are areas that serve as stopovers for migratory waterfowl, refuges for endangered and native species, and wintering habitats for diverse fish and wildlife. The 2001 budget includes an \$8.0 million FWS land acquisition request to secure these areas from the threat of further development. The New Jersey projects at Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge and Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge will help to arrest habitat degradation resulting from the pressures of development. In addition, Interior expects to allocate State conservation grant funds to target projects that are a regional priority. Through this process the Department would provide grants to the States of New Jersey and New York, matched

on a 50/50 basis, to protect crucial wetland sites in the New Jersey-New York harbor area, including Raritan Bay, Hackensack watershed, and Staten Island. In the immediate vicinity of the New Jersey-New York watershed and on the Atlantic flyway, a \$5.0 million land acquisition will protect Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge in New York that provides critical wintering habitat for the over 200,000 waterfowl that winter on Long Island, and will protect a key migration corridor for shorebirds. This is the beginning of a multi-year effort to work in partnership with the States and local communities to protect important wildlife habitat, establish green spaces for rapidly growing suburbs, and provide recreational opportunities to residents of this watershed.

Like Theodore Roosevelt, I believe there are certain places humankind simply cannot improve upon – places whose beauty and interest no photograph could capture, places you simply have to see for yourself. We must use this time of unparalleled prosperity to ensure people will always be able to see these places as we see them today. There is no greater gift we can offer to the new millennium than to protect these treasures for all Americans for all time.

President Bill Clinton, December 14, 1999

Chesapeake Bay Watershed

The Chesapeake Bay, one of the world's great natural resources, is a nursery for significant commercial fisheries and a major stopover for migratory birds and waterfowl along the Atlantic flyway. The Bay provides major transportation routes and is key to the ecological and economic health of the region. Within this region, there are a number of historic sites such as Fort McHenry; the home of Thomas Stone, signer of the Declaration of Independence; and numerous Civil War sites. Many of these historic sites are unprotected, access to the Bay for recreational purposes is limited, and many citizens are not aware of the impacts of daily life on the ecology of the Bay. Senator Paul Sarbanes has recently highlighted the importance of taking steps to "link the Bay's many valuable resources in a magnificent string of pearls along the Chesapeake Bay." The Bureau of Land Management requests \$3.0 million for acquisition of lands along the Potomac River to protect unique wetland and woodland habitat at Douglas Point, an important historical site. NPS will provide a \$2.0 million matching grant to the State of Maryland to protect a key parcel in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The Chesapeake Bay Watershed

In addition to acquiring key parcels of land to protect important historical and ecological sites and to provide recreational access to the Bay, Interior will request \$1.25 million for the NPS Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails program. The Department will continue to work with the State and other partners to identify and begin implementation of this program that will support a network of natural, historic, cultural, and recreational sites to be linked throughout the Bay and its tributaries with trails, tour roads, scenic byways, and water trails. These partnership efforts will support increased recreation and tourism, and educate citizens on the importance of the Bay to their water supply and ecosystem. Through its Partners in Wildlife Program, FWS will utilize an increase of \$2.0 million to work with local landowners to control the spread of invasive species in areas including the Chesapeake Bay.

Southern California

Southern California is one of the most densely populated regions in the country. Habitat for fish and wildlife continues to shrink daily as develop-



ment flourishes to meet the needs of the ever-growing number of people who move there. In response, the State, county, and municipal governments have begun a planning process to manage development and to identify and protect key natural resources. The Department proposes acquisitions in and near the populated areas of southern California to provide open spaces in communities that are rapidly urbanizing and to provide pockets of protected land for sensitive species. The request includes a proposal of \$14.4 million for southern California to acquire lands for the Santa Rosa Mountains National Scenic Area, Otay Mountain/Kuchamaa Habitat Conservation Plan, San Diego National Wildlife Refuge, Potrero Creek,

and Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. These requests support Interior's ongoing partnerships with the State, local, and municipal governments in southern California.

Strengthening Communities in Southern California

Acquisition of important fish and wildlife habitat and recreational areas in southern California complements Interior's activities in endangered species conservation and the management of parks, refuges, and public lands. As part of the 2001 Lands Legacy Initiative, FWS is requesting an increase of \$42.0 million in the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund to expand its capability to assist local communities in implementing Habitat Conservation Plans. HCPs protect imperiled habitat and species while allowing economic development to proceed. One such effort is the San Diego Multi-Species Conservation Plan that will conserve habitat for 85 rare plant and animal species. In 2001, FWS will provide \$2.0 million in support of the Natural Community Conservation Planning program, a program involving five counties that will develop a system of regional habitat reserves to protect 35 listed species.

The 2001 budget request includes an additional \$3.0 million for an effort involving BLM, NPS, FWS, and USGS to improve conditions in the fragile environment of the California Desert Conservation Area to respond to some of the needs developed jointly by the bureaus in a collaborative "laboratory."

Other Federal Land Acquisition Priorities

Within easy driving distance of major urban centers in the Northeast, including Boston, Hartford, and New York City, are 26 million acres of Northern Forest which stretch from coastal Maine through New Hampshire, Vermont, and upstate New York. These areas provide tremendous recreation opportunities to millions of city dwellers as well as important habitat for black bears, deer, eagles, black ducks, and stopping off points for migratory birds. Most of this area is privately owned and tracts are beginning to come on the market. Without some means of protection, these lands could be lost forever to development. The proposed \$5.0 million will allow FWS to acquire lands from willing sellers for additions to the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge in Maine, the Silvio Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge in Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Connecticut, and the Lake Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge in New Hampshire and Maine.

North America's tallest dune system is threatened by possible water development to support population growth along Colorado's Front Range. The Great Sand Dunes National Monument consists of a dunefield that is fed by low lying sand deposits upwind of the dunes. Rivers, creeks, and underground aquifers that replenish the dunes are all outside the boundaries of the Monument. The 2001 budget request includes \$8.5 million, subject to authorization, to expand the boundaries of the Monument to protect the watershed that feeds the sand dunes.

HELPING STATES AND COMMUNITIES PRESERVE GREEN SPACES, HABITAT, AND SPECIES

Our population is growing; our cities are growing; our commitment to conservation must grow as well. We'll never have a better time to act because of the unprecedented prosperity. . . . And we ought to remember what Theodore Roosevelt said – we are not building this country of ours for a day; we have to make sure it lasts through the ages.

President Bill Clinton, January 12, 1999

The Lands Legacy Initiative proposes a series of complementary programs that will provide States and local communities with the resources they need to preserve open spaces, protect and recover habitats and species, develop recreation areas, and provide access to wildlife viewing areas. The Department will use its existing authorities to work collaboratively with communities to further conservation goals by providing grants and technical and planning assistance.

State Conservation Grants

This program, funded from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, leverages State and local funds to acquire and develop land for a variety of public recreation purposes, including open space, greenways, forests, and estuaries. The program ensures stewardship of our Nation's lands by setting areas aside to be permanently protected, preserves scenic and unique lands for the public's use, and provides recreation opportunities.

Grants will be provided on a 50/50 matching basis to States, and through the States, to local units of government. The 2001 budget proposes \$150.0

million for this program, building upon the \$41.0 million provided by Congress in 2000. One half of new program funds will be distributed to States through the existing formula. This will provide almost double the amount provided in 2000 for States to acquire lands that they have determined are high priority. Of the amount allocated under the existing formula, the budget assumes no more than half is available for development projects. The remaining grant funds will be allocated on need-based criteria as determined by the Secretary, and will be used to target support for projects that are a national priority such as wetlands in the New Jersey-New York watershed and the lower Mississippi Delta, endangered species habitat in southern California, and undeveloped forested tracts in the Northern Forest. With the match, the program will provide almost \$300 million.

Funding for the State grant program in the past has enabled States and communities to acquire beaches and headlands in southern California to allow views of migrating whales; establish two parks in Mississippi with boating, fishing, camping, and family recreation areas; establish a park in New York to protect spectacular views of the Hudson River and an addition to New Jersey's Wharton State Park to preserve a wide diversity of ecological systems such as pine oak forests, bogs, lowlands, and riverine areas; and establish a new State park in densely populated northeastern Ohio featuring a study center for Ohio's natural and cultural history. The 2001 request will renew this record of success.

This is not about locking lands up; it is about freeing them up, from the pressures of development and the threat of sprawl, for all Americans for all time.

President Bill Clinton, January 11, 2000.

Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program

Congressional funding in 2000 for the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery program is renewing popular "close-to-home" recreation opportunities that strengthen economically distressed urban communities. The UPARR program, funded in the National Park Service budget, awarded over \$200 million between 1978 to 1995 for rehabilitating and improving urban recreation facilities and

programs. Programs funded with a combination of UPARR grants and local money have included the restoration of Harriet Tubman and Morningside Parks in Knoxville, Tennessee; the conversion of an abandoned coal bunker to a recreation center in Jersey City, New Jersey; and a rehabilitation project resulting in the first public recreation facility in the Edgewater Community in Chicago, Illinois.



The UPARR request is \$20.0 million and will fund about 100-125 projects in urban communities, such as implementing innovative approaches to enhance park and recreation opportunities and rehabilitating existing neighborhood recreation areas and facilities that have deteriorated to the point where health and safety are endangered or the community's range of quality of recreation service is impaired. UPARR targets seed money to leverage greater public or private investment in the form of services, materials, and dollars, and encourages increased local commitment to the protection and management of existing resources.

NPS 2001 Goal - The NPS will enhance recreation services to inner-city minority and low to moderate income populations through the UPARR program, which will make 100-125 grants to rehabilitate recreation areas.

State Non-Game Wildlife Grants

Within existing statutory authorities, FWS will implement a long-discussed and long-awaited new program to provide \$100.0 million in grants to States, Tribes, and territories for land acquisition for non-game habitat restoration, planning, moni-

toring, inventories, and wildlife-related recreation. Working cooperatively with States, this funding will allow States to more comprehensively address conservation needs for a wide diversity of fish, wildlife, and plant resources not addressed by traditional programs that have focused mainly on game species and imperiled species. This program will respond to public demand for a program that addresses non-game conservation, such as observing, feeding, or photographing wildlife. An estimated 62.9 million nature enthusiasts currently spend over \$29.2 billion a year in pursuit of these activities.

Projects will include restoring fringe habitats favored by songbirds; inventorying and protecting key stopover points for migratory songbirds; monitoring invasive ruffe fish populations to ensure forage for larger fish; constructing wildlife watch-



ing blinds and platforms; improving wildlife watching trails and canoe access points; protecting reefs; and improving important non-game habitats on Indian reservations.

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

The Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund assists States and local communities in conserving species and providing for economic growth. The 2001 budget request for a \$42.0

million increase will provide grants to States and local governments for land acquisition to protect and restore threatened and endangered species, and will promote collaborative strategies with States and local governments to develop Habitat Conservation Plans, Candidate Conservation Agreements, and other tools that provide flexibility in species protection under the Endangered Species Act.

North American Wetlands Conservation Fund

Through the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund, voluntary partnerships with State and local governments, farmers and other private landowners, Tribes, and non-profit conservation



groups protect and restore important breeding grounds along with resting and over-wintering areas for waterfowl and migratory species and wetland-dependent wildlife. Wetland restoration activities will include revegetation, acquiring conservation easements, and establishing water management capabilities. Opportunities for outdoor recreation such as hunting, fishing, and bird watching will be increased. As co-signatories to the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, the United States, Canada, and Mexico agreed to halt continuing wetlands destruction and to restore rapidly declining waterfowl populations. The Department requests \$30.0 million for this tried and proven program that has protected over 9.1 million acres of prime habitat in the United States and Canada, an increase of \$15.0 million over 2000.

To date, the program has contributed \$288.0 million in support of projects with partner matching funds in excess of \$727 million. Partners have

worked together on more than 700 projects in 47 States, 10 Canadian provinces, and 18 Mexican states and these projects have protected, restored, or enhanced nearly 9.1 million acres of wetlands and associated uplands in the U.S. and Canada. More than 25 million acres within Mexico's large biosphere reserves have benefited from similar conservation actions and additional education, training, and planning efforts. An appropriated level of \$30.0 million would generate an equal amount from partners. This translates to a minimum of \$60 million available for wetlands conservation activities across North America, potentially affecting at least 150,000 acres of wetlands and associated upland habitats.

FWS 2001 Goal - The FWS will enhance, create or restore 48,414 acres of wetlands habitat, restore 104,253 acres of upland habitat, and enhance or restore 711 riparian or stream miles of habitat off FWS lands through partnerships and other conservation strategies.

State Planning Partnerships

The Department is committed to provide relevant science and to get the results of that science into the hands of those who need it the most – decision-makers at all levels of government. Use of the world-class data and science available through the U.S. Geological Survey will assist these decisionmakers in combating urban sprawl and managing resources. The \$50.0 million State Planning Partnerships component of the Lands Legacy Initiative will provide State, local decisionmakers, and Federal resource managers with geospatial data, earth science information, and information technology tools, like GIS. Access to these tools will strengthen their ability to protect valuable natural resources, identify optimal lands for acquisition, design effective land use and development strategies, develop efficient transportation systems, and mitigate natural hazards.

An expanded Urban Dynamics Program will assist city and regional land use planners in understanding historical growth patterns, project future growth patterns, project future growth constraints such as water supplies, and develop plans for community growth that will resolve potential land use conflicts. Specific areas of study will include

Detroit, Chicago, Phoenix, Tucson, and San Bernadino County, California. Local officials use this information to identify optimal locations for future road construction and other public infrastructure and measure the full range of impacts of alternative choices. The request for this component of the State Planning Partnerships Program is \$10.0 million.



The State Planning Partnerships proposal includes \$10.0 million for predictive modeling and decision support systems for Federal and State natural resource managers. For example, the program will develop a system for local officials and natural resource planners to determine best management practices for the lower Mississippi River. This will be used by local officials and park and refuge managers to evaluate the effectiveness of alternative management and restoration approaches in advance, thereby improving their ability to design and implement the most effective land and resource management strategies.

As the leader in developing a spatial data infrastructure for the Nation, USGS works collaboratively with States and others to improve data sharing and access to spatial data and maps. Efforts sponsored by the Federal Geographic Data Committee, such as the Cooperative Agreements Program and the Community Demonstration Projects, and other efforts such as the Ohio View project, have demonstrated the usefulness of information sharing among Federal, State, and local organizations and universities and the benefits of leveraging resources. The 2001 budget request of \$30.0 million builds on six successful pilots including those in the Pacific Northwest and in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, and proposes to extend this powerful information sharing tool to communities throughout the Nation. Through a competitive process \$25.0 million will be awarded in matching grants to improve access by State and local communities to geospatial data and maps; \$5.0 million will be used by USGS to improve its geospatial data and maps. This powerful tool could complement other efforts to build strong communities in areas such as the Lower Mississippi Delta, the New York-New Jersey watershed, southern California, and the Great Lakes region.

USGS 2001 Goal - The USGS will provide and improve long-term environmental and natural resource information and investigations about natural systems by maintaining 38 long-term data collection efforts and two large data infrastructures.