

Proposed Program Funding Increases in FY '04

In FY 2004, the Administration proposes the following funding increases for biological resources research and science activities in support of the mission of the USGS and the Department of the Interior.

Science on the Landscape

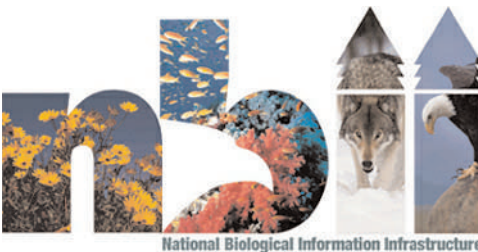
The scientific nature of the USGS, its national perspective, and its non-regulatory role enable the USGS to provide information and understanding that are policy relevant and policy neutral. In FY '04, an increase of \$3 million will provide funds for enhanced science support to meet priority needs for Department of the



Interior bureaus. Particular emphasis will be on restoring degraded habitats, wildlife issues, hydrologic and biologic issues related to energy development, and ground water availability studies.

National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII)

The NBII is a collaborative program based on strong partnerships with state and resource management agencies that provides improved access to data and information on the



nation's biological resources. A proposed NBII funding increase of \$2.3 million in FY '04 will strengthen the resources of the existing

California information node and initiate a mid-Atlantic node. Resource managers, scientists, educators, and the general public use the NBII to understand issues related to the management and conservation of this nation's biological resources.

Chronic Wasting Disease

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), a progressive fatal wildlife disease, has become a serious threat to wild deer and elk



populations across the country. In FY '04, a proposed increase of \$1.0 million would allow USGS to address high priority research needs of state and wildlife managers. Studies will be initiated to determine the transmission pathways of CWD. This research is paramount to state wildlife and land man-

agement agencies, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service to effectively manage cervid populations and their habitats on public lands. The USGS will also increase the amount of geospatial information on CWD and make it available through the NBII.

Invasive Species Research

Natural ecosystems are under siege by harmful non-native species of plants and animals. The current environmental, economic, and health costs of invasive species is staggering. As the nation's principal natural resource science agency, a funding



increase of \$3.0 million in FY '04 is proposed to allow the USGS to expand invasive species research and begin developing a prototype model for a national early detection network for invasive species in U.S. terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Of particular concern are invasive plants in

the western rangelands, terrestrial invasion in Hawaii, and aquatic invasions in wetlands and coastal estuaries. Expanded research will allow land managing agencies to determine appropriate management strategies for controlling or eradicating invasive plants and animals.