

A NEW ERA OF RESPONSIBILITY: RENEWING AMERICA'S PROMISE

The U.S. Department of the Interior 2010 Budget

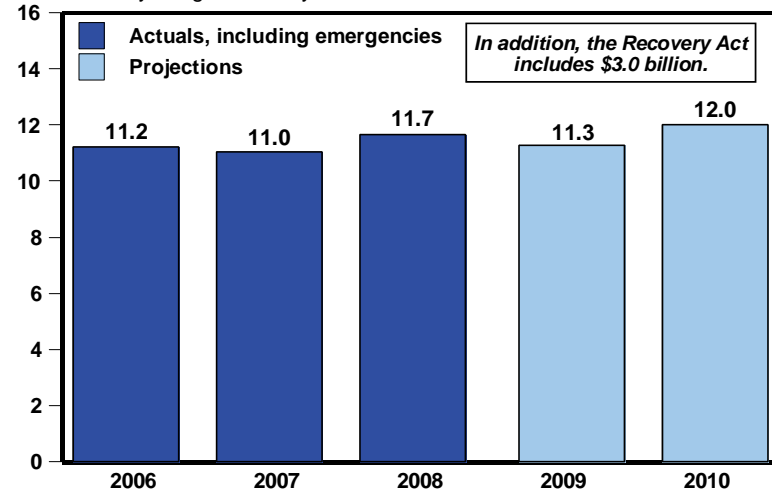
“One of the great blessings bestowed upon us as Americans is the bounty of our natural environment. But our wide open spaces are not only a blessing to be enjoyed, they are the foundation of a brighter future. How we harness our natural resources will speak not only to our quality of life, but to our economic growth and our energy future. It’s time for a new kind of leadership that’s committed to using our lands in a responsible way to benefit all our families. That means ensuring that, even as we are promoting development where it makes sense, we are also fulfilling our obligation to protect our national treasures.”

-- *President Barack Obama*

The U.S. Department of the Interior protects and provides access to our nation’s natural and cultural heritage, honoring our past while helping to create new opportunities for the future. Through the Interior Department, we honor our trust responsibilities to Indian Tribes and our commitments to island communities. The Budget includes \$12 billion for the Department of the Interior, with initiatives to protect and preserve America's national parks and public lands; conserve wetlands and wildlife habitat; strengthen Native American communities; enhance outdoor opportunities for young people; and promote energy security with a focus on clean renewable sources and strategies to address climate change. The Budget supports programs to expand environmental education activities, strengthens Native American communities through increased funding for law enforcement and education, promotes renewable energy programs on Federal lands and waters, and creates a new contingent funding reserve to anticipate costs for catastrophic wildfires. The Budget includes provisions to encourage responsible development of oil and gas resources, and closes loopholes that have given oil companies excessive royalty relief.

Department of the Interior

Discretionary budget authority in billions of dollars



The U.S. Department of the Interior Budget Highlights

OUR NATION'S NATURAL RESOURCES

Protects national parks. The President is committed to preserving our national parks, with a \$100 million increase in park operations to protect the investments made through the Recovery Act and maintain facilities and natural resources. An additional \$25 million will provide matching funds to leverage private donations in preparation for the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service.

Conserves new lands. The Budget increases Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) funding for DOI by more than \$80 million, bringing the total request for the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior up to \$420 million in 2010 and putting the Administration on track to fully fund LWCF programs at \$900 million by 2014.

Establishes a dedicated fund to fight wildfires. A \$75 million discretionary contingent reserve, coupled with program reforms, will improve wildfire operations and promote safe, cost-effective and accountable results from investments made in managing fire on landscapes.

Conserves Western water. The Budget provides for a Western water conservation initiative, which includes the Bureau of Reclamation's water reuse and recycling (Title XVI) program.

A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

Invests in a clean energy future. The Budget includes more than \$50 million in increases to conduct the environmental evaluations and technical studies needed to spur development of renewable energy projects, assess available alternative resources, and mitigate the impacts of development on Federal lands and waters.

Assesses and responds to the impact of climate change on wildlife. The Budget includes increases of more than \$130 million, of which \$40 million is shared with the states for wildlife adaptation. Additionally, the Budget increases funds by \$10 million for North American Wetlands Conservation activities to acquire, restore, or protect wetlands used by migratory waterfowl and other birds.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND A BETTER RETURN TO TAXPAYERS

Provides a better return to taxpayers from mineral development. The public receives more than \$12 billion annually from fees, royalties, and other federal payments related to oil, gas, coal, and other mineral development. Yet, that return could be improved by closing loopholes, charging appropriate fees, and reforming how royalties are set.

Encourages youth education and involvement. The Budget provides increases of more than \$50 million to help states and OOI bureaus establish creative new programs and strategies to encourage young people and minority populations to responsibly hunt and fish, as well as internships to instill environmental awareness.

STRENGTHENS NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES.

Increases funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The President's Budget includes more than \$100 million in increased funding to the Bureau of Indian Affairs for law enforcement and education.