

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT
THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR 30 DAY PLAN



The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (P.L. 111-5) requires the submission of a general plan for programs funded under Title VII, Interior, Environment and Related Agencies. This report provides the general plan for the Department of Interior bureaus receiving funding in the Recovery Act. Thus, the report provides a general overview of Recovery Act efforts planned in agencies that are under the purview of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Subcommittee and the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee. This report also fulfills the requirement in Title IV of the Recovery Act requesting a quarterly report on the Bureau of Reclamation Recovery Act efforts.

– THE VISION –

“President Obama and Vice President Biden have made it clear that we must implement the Recovery Act, swiftly, wisely, and with unprecedented levels of transparency and accountability so that we can create jobs and put our country back to work.”

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar

February 20, 2009

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the Recovery Act) is an unprecedented investment in our country’s future.

The President has set out specific goals for the Recovery Act, including:

- Create or save more than 3.5 million jobs government-wide over the next two years;
- Revive the renewable energy industry and provide the capital over the next three years to eventually double domestic renewable energy capacity;
- As part of the \$150 billion investment in new infrastructure, enact the largest increase in funding of our nation's roads, bridges, and mass transit systems since the creation of the national highway system in the 1950's; and
- Require unprecedented levels of transparency, oversight, and accountability.

The Department of the Interior will play an important role in this effort. The Act includes \$3 billion appropriated to bureaus within the Department, \$490 million appropriated to the Department of Transportation for Interior roads. All of these investments will focus on job creation, and the majority will contribute to the goals outlined in the Recovery Act for renewable energy and infrastructure. The opportunity provided by the Act will: accelerate a move toward a clean energy economy by directly supporting the use and generation of renewable sources and reduce energy consumption by improving energy efficiency in existing facilities; put young adults to work in jobs that provide an opportunity to build employable skills and develop an appreciation for environmental stewardship; and preserve and restore the Nation's iconic and treasured structures, landscapes, and cultural resources.



The Department's geographically dispersed and field-based service delivery network will afford unprecedented opportunities to employ individuals in communities in all fifty states. The Department of the Interior manages one of every five acres of land in the United States, with 391 national park units, 550 wildlife refuges, and a 26-million acre National Landscape Conservation System. Nearly every American lives within a one-hour drive of lands or waters managed by the Department. With 165,000 buildings and structures at 2,400 operating locations, Interior is second only to the Department of Defense in managed assets. Programs in Indian Affairs provide services to 562 federally recognized Tribes and provide education services to 44,000 students in 23 states. Interior's investments in water infrastructure programs are unrivaled, with 479 dams and 348 reservoirs. The Bureau of Reclamation delivers irrigation water to 31 million people and is the largest supplier and manager of water in the 17 western States.

The Recovery Act funding will be used for projects in parks, refuges, and public lands throughout the Nation; to improve conditions in Indian Country; to strengthen the Department's scientific infrastructure; and for water projects throughout the western states.



The Department and its bureaus are moving expeditiously to finalize detailed plans for projects that will fulfill the mandates of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. These projects will preserve and create jobs; invest in infrastructure, energy efficiency; help the unemployed; and assist with State and local fiscal stabilization. Interior bureaus will invest the funds appropriated under the Act on projects that support mission goals and priorities

and have been selected through a merit-based process using transparent criteria.

Title VII - Interior, Environment and Related Agencies:

Within the total \$3 billion appropriated in the Recovery Act for Interior, \$2 billion is under the purview of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the National Park Services (NPS), and Indian Affairs (BIA). For these bureaus, the Act directs significant resources for the repair and rehabilitation of facilities. The bureaus will use established criteria and prioritization processes including five-year lists to address deferred maintenance priorities and demonstrate results from these investments with performance measures, such as the Facility Condition Index.

The Act also targets energy efficient retrofits at existing facilities. In undertaking these modernization projects, Interior bureaus will incorporate renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. In so doing, the facilities will not simply be repaired, but will become models of a clean energy economy.

The Act also specifically directs the bureaus to address other project categories. Direction to the BLM recommends inclusion of projects for the remediation of abandoned mine and well sites; direction to the National Park Service also

specifies abandoned mine site cleanup. BLM and NPS are directed to undertake road and trail maintenance. FWS is directed to undertake habitat restoration. NPS and USGS are directed to undertake equipment replacement. These projects as well as many others will create jobs both directly and through the purchase of American made equipment. The Department's geographically dispersed facilities will promote employment in large and small communities across the nation.

In addition to directed infrastructure investment that allows bureaus to expand the use of renewable and energy efficient technologies, there is specific flexibility given to BLM for program activities to improve access to public lands for renewable energy development. A portion of Recovery Act funding will be used to expedite and enhance processing of rights-of-way for renewable energy projects and related permit applications. BLM projects will also enhance forest, woodland, and range health and reduce hazardous fuel loads, and in the process produce biomass for renewable energy production.

Recovery Act funding appropriated to the Wildland Fire program will be used for hazardous fuels reduction.

A separate appropriation to NPS provides funding for historic preservation grants to Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Funding will be allocated to schools based on a competitive assessment of project submissions. As provided in the legislation, matching requirements for grants will be waived.

Direction to Indian Affairs provides for investment in housing improvement, workforce training, repair and restoration of roads, and replacement school construction and repair. A separate appropriation provides funding for the Indian loan program. The Interior Recovery Plan targets high priority projects in these areas. Projects will result in the employment of significant numbers of American Indians, provide on-the-job-training and train individuals for future employment in trades such as plumbers and pipefitters.

An appropriation of \$15 million will fund Office of Inspector General oversight efforts.

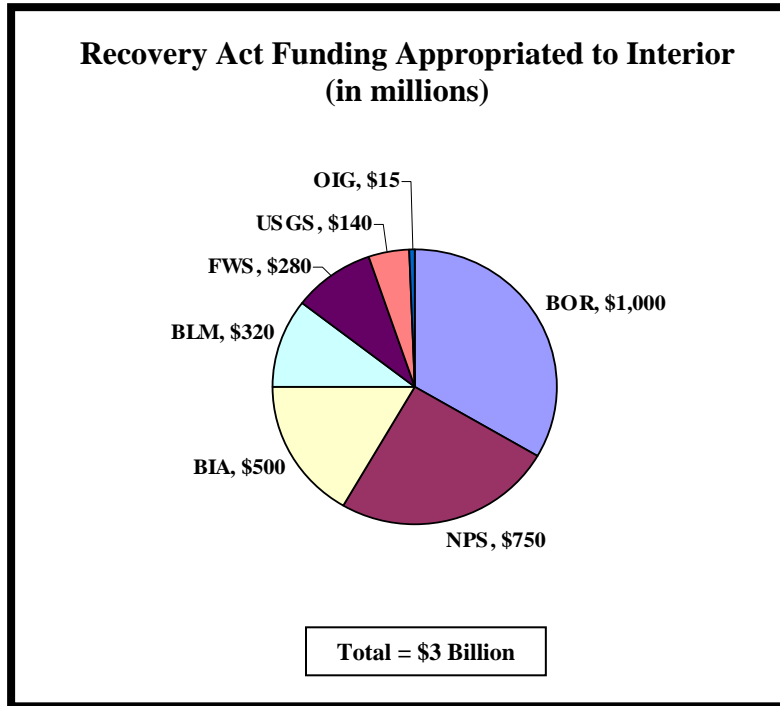
Title IV – Energy and Water Development:

The Recovery Act appropriates \$1 billion to the Bureau of Reclamation for investments in water management infrastructure, water conservation, water reclamation and reuse, rural water projects, and inspection of canals in urbanized areas. Project selection will be based on direction in the Act, jobs created, timelines of expenditures, and importance relative to water management and conservation goals.



OVERVIEW OF FUNDING

Bureaus and offices in the Department of the Interior are appropriated a total of \$3 billion under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The Act also includes \$490 million in funding under the Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration to construct and repair roads in National Parks, Wildlife Refuges, and Indian reservations. The funds allocated to Interior are illustrated below.



Title VII - Interior, Environment and Related Agencies:

The Recovery Act includes \$320 million for the Bureau of Land Management, of which \$15 million is for wildland fire management (see below), \$125 million is to maintain and restore facilities and lands, remediate abandoned mines and wells, and \$180 million is for construction projects to repair roads, bridges, trails, property, and facilities and for energy efficient retrofits of existing facilities. BLM will also allocate some of these funds to expand its capacity to authorize renewable energy development on public lands while ensuring environmental protection of these areas.

The U.S. Geological Survey will invest \$140 million under the Recovery Act to restore and rehabilitate laboratories and research facilities, equipment replacement and upgrades for streamgages and seismic and volcano

monitoring systems, national map activities, and other critical deferred maintenance and improvement projects.

The \$280 million in the Recovery Act for the Fish and Wildlife Service includes \$165 million for deferred maintenance and high-priority habitat restoration projects on national wildlife refuges and national fish hatcheries, and \$115 million to reconstruct and repair roads, bridges, property and facilities and to improve energy efficiency and renewable energy use on refuges and other FWS facilities.

The \$750 million appropriated to the National Park Service will help preserve and protect iconic and historic facilities and landscapes in our national parks. This includes \$146 million for deferred maintenance of facilities and trails and other critical repair and rehabilitation projects in national parks, and \$589 million for construction projects in national parks to repair roads, construct facilities, including energy efficient retrofits of existing facilities, replace equipment, preserve historic resources, clean up abandoned mines, and make other improvements to critical infrastructure. NPS also received \$15 million to provide historic preservation grants to protect and restore buildings at historically black colleges and universities.

The Recovery Act provides \$500 million for the Indian Affairs to improve Indian housing, repair and restore roads, and replace and improve Indian schools that serve 44,000 Indian children. This includes \$40 million for workforce training programs and housing improvements, and \$450 million for construction projects to repair roads, replace and repair schools, and maintain and repair detention facilities. It also provides \$10 million for BIA to guarantee approximately \$130-\$170 million in loans to spur Indian economies. BIA will initiate on-the-job training efforts in the construction trades in partnership with the Council on Tribal Employment Rights and the Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust and expand a pilot project in partnership with the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters to train tribal members to become certified plumbers, pipefitters and welders.

Funding is also included for Interior bureaus to eliminate underbrush and other vegetation in fire-prone areas in order to reduce the threat and potential severity of fire. A total of \$15 million is appropriated to the Wildland Fire Account that will be allocated among BLM, FWS, NPS, and BIA.

Funding totaling \$15 million was appropriated to the Office of Inspector General



for the oversight and audit of programs, grants, contracts, and projects funded in the Act. The OIG created the Recovery Oversight Office (ROO) to ensure accountability of funds received by

Interior under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The ROO will take a three-pronged approach of prevention, detection, and reporting. Efforts will focus on: preventing fraud, waste, and abuse of reinvestment dollars; early detection to reduce the impact of such misuse when it does occur; and ensuring transparency in oversight efforts.

Where practical, Interior will engage and encourage the participation of young adults in implementing Recovery Act projects throughout the nation. For example, youth recruited in cooperation with existing partners will help to restore trails for visitors and control invasive species on public lands.

Title IV – Energy and Water Development:

The Act provides \$1 billion to the Bureau of Reclamation to fund authorized water reuse and rural water construction projects. Funds will be used to promote water conservation, improve water management, and address an aging water infrastructure.

The Act also includes \$490 million under the Department of Transportation for Federal Highway Administration funds slated for road construction and repair on reservations and at Interior facilities, including \$310 million for Indian reservation roads; \$170 million for national park roads and parkways; and \$10 million for wildlife refuge roads.

As provided in the Act's accompanying report, the Department will reserve a modest amount (no more than 5 percent) to cover the costs of program and project administration, which will be closely tracked. Amounts that are not needed for administration will be allocated to projects later in the implementation of the program. These functions include contracting and award activities, tracking, reporting, execution, monitoring and oversight. Interior intends to keep these costs to a minimum to ensure that maximum funding is provided to programs and projects to create jobs and stimulate economic recovery.

– PROJECT SELECTION AND BUREAU ALLOCATION OF FUNDS –

In recognition of the urgency to select and execute projects expeditiously, Interior is mobilizing quickly to identify meritorious projects for Recovery Act funding. The Department established unified priorities and formulated guidance to lead the bureaus in the orchestration of the project selection process. The guidance prescribed that the following framework be used to assess a project's suitability for Recovery Act funding:

- **Addresses high priority mission needs.** Has the project been evaluated through established procedures to address high priority needs? Are public lands, parks, refuges and resources renewed as a result of the project? Do

the projects selected benefit the high priority needs such as Indian housing and job training? With respect to deferred maintenance and line item construction, is the ranking consistent with existing priorities and processes?

- **Expediency of implementation.** Does the project involve minimal preparation time (e.g. planning, permitting) to expedite the creation of jobs? Does the allocation emphasize projects for which funds can be obligated within four months of the enactment of the Recovery Act?
- **Job creation potential.** Pursuant to the primary goal of the Recovery Act, what is the potential of the project to quickly create jobs and stimulate local economies?
- **Long term value.** To what extent does the project create long term value for the American public through improved energy independence, restoration of treasured landscapes or other lasting benefits? Are there performance measures to demonstrate results?
- **Energy objectives.** Do the infrastructure modernization and improvement projects incorporate energy efficient and renewable energy technologies? Do the projects further clean energy and independence goals?
- **Merit based.** Are the project selection criteria merit based and transparent? Are competitive awards used to the maximum extent possible? Do the criteria incorporate existing prioritization processes?
- **Opportunities for youth.** Does the project promote employment of young adults and instill education about our public lands and cultural resources?
- **Future cost avoidance.** Does the project selection consider the need to avoid additional operating costs in future years? Will the project decrease operating costs through increased use of renewable energy and energy efficiency, improved space and functional utilization, or disposal of unneeded and costly assets?

Interior's bureaus have developed project selection methodologies to evaluate project viability using a combination of the above criteria. The program specific Recovery Act plans required 90 days after enactment will provide full detail on the project selection methodology used to evaluate each bureau's specific activities.

Following the bureaus' internal review and prioritization, project lists were submitted for Departmental review. The Secretary held a series of meetings with each bureau to discuss their project selection approach and implementation challenges. An inter-disciplinary evaluation team was formed to characterize and summarize the portfolio of projects. The team assisted the process of Secretarial consideration to:

- Evaluate the basis for project selection and the balance of the composition of the portfolio in each bureau;

- Validate that bureau project selections are consistent with the Recovery Act bill and report language and government-wide guidelines;
- Validate that the projects are suitable for Recovery Act funding relative to rapid execution, impacts on future operating requirements, and timelines for project completion;
- Validate that projects were selected using merit based processes and established criteria, with a focus on rapid execution;
- Determine how to monitor progress and demonstrate results; and
- Identify potential problems or delays in execution and recommend solutions.

– SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING –

“We cannot overstate the importance of this effort. We are asking the American people to trust their government with an unprecedented level of funding to address this economic emergency. In return, we must prove to them that their dollars are being invested in initiatives and strategies that make a difference in their communities and across the country. Following through on our commitments for accountability and openness will create a foundation upon which we can build as we continue to tackle the economic crisis and the many other challenges facing our Nation.”

Rahm Emanuel and Peter Orszag. Memorandum to Heads of Departments and Agencies.

The President and Congress have made it clear that the Act must be carried out with unparalleled levels of accountability and transparency. The President has identified five crucial objectives for federal agencies, to ensure that:

- Recovery funds are awarded and distributed in a prompt manner using merit based project selection processes;
- The recipients and use of all recovery funds are transparent to the public, and that the public benefits of these funds are reported clearly, accurately, and in a timely manner;
- Recovery funds are used for authorized purposes and every step is taken to prevent instances of fraud, waste, error, and abuse;
- Projects funded under the recovery legislation avoid unnecessary delays and cost overruns; and,
- Programs meet specific goals and targets, contribute to improved performance, and are monitored based on project milestones and planned budgets.

To meet these objectives the Department of the Interior has taken critical steps to prepare for the Act’s implementation. Leading these efforts will be Interior’s Recovery Coordinator, Chris Henderson. Prior to coming to Interior Mr. Henderson served as the Chief Operating Officer for the City of Denver, where he focused on improving the city’s strategic planning and performance management efforts, as well as carrying out a number of successful organizational initiatives to improve efficiency and service levels. In his role as the Recovery Coordinator, Mr. Henderson will help ensure projects address the Department’s high priority goals and objectives, while also working to ensure that department-wide performance objectives, including timeliness and cost and risk management are met throughout the process.

The Secretary has also established a management structure that will ensure accountability and transparency. This structure includes a Recovery Act

Executive Board and Task Force. The Office of Inspector General will be working closely with the Department from the start to review and propose effective processes to manage risks, monitor progress and to improve overall performance and accountability.

The Department's Recovery Act Executive Board consists of nine members, and is chaired by the Department's Chief of Staff. The other board members are the Recovery Act Coordinator, Solicitor, Inspector General, and the five Assistant Secretaries covering each area within Interior. The Executive Board is the entity responsible for ensuring compliance with the Recovery Act execution reporting, and audit requirements. The Board will be convened once project decisions are made and plans are finalized.

The Recovery Act Task Force is co-chaired by the Recovery Act Coordinator and the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget, and is responsible for implementation of the Recovery Act. The Task Force has representatives from each bureau, as well as all the functional areas across the Department. The primary role of the Task Force is to ensure consistent implementation of the Recovery Act, promote collaboration and sharing of skills and best practices among bureaus, develop implementation guidance, oversee the process for completion of Recovery Act plans and project lists, and develop the infrastructure for needed on-going monitoring of progress and performance.

There are eight individual workgroups reporting to the Task Force that are developing processes and guidance to execute the key components of the Recovery Act. There are workgroups on reporting, performance, communications, project approval, administration, risk management, acquisitions, and youth involvement.

In addition to these Departmental groups, each bureau has established their own governance structure. Bureau level task forces will ensure that each program executes projects effectively and meets the accountability and transparency objectives of the Act. A Recovery Act coordinator has been designated for each bureau. The coordinators are:

- Department of Interior – Chris Henderson
- Department of Interior – Pam Haze
- Department of Interior – Mary Pletcher
- Bureau of Land Management – Janine Velasco
- Bureau of Land Management – Barron Bail
- U.S. Geological Survey – Carla Burzyk
- U.S. Geological Survey – Karen Baker
- Fish and Wildlife Service – Paul Rauch

- National Park Service – Bruce Sheaffer
- Indian Affairs – Grayford Payne
- Indian Affairs – Mary Jane Miller
- Bureau of Indian Affairs – Kevin Bearquiver
- Wildland Fire – Kirk Rowdabaugh
- Bureau of Reclamation – Kerri Johnson
- Bureau of Reclamation – Gayle Kunkel-Shields
- Inspector General – Robert Knox

The bureau level task forces have responsibilities from the development of project lists through completion. They develop the project lists, establish the necessary controls, and develop tracking mechanisms to ensure they are managing schedules and performance, and meeting the reporting requirements. The bureaus will also utilize staff in the field to provide direct oversight and leadership in their respective areas of responsibility and provide reports to their executive leadership. The task forces meet regularly to ensure proper oversight.

In subsequent reports to the Subcommittees, specifics will be provided on Recovery Act bureau program components and projects.

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 -Division A	
Department of the Interior & Other Related Funding	
	(\$K)
INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS	
ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT (TITLE IV)	
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR	
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION	
Water and Related Resources	\$1,000,000
INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES (TITLE VII)	
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR	
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT	
Management of Land & Resources	\$125,000
Construction	\$180,000
Wildland Fire Management	\$15,000
<i>subtotal, BLM</i>	\$320,000
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE	
Resource Management	\$165,000
Construction	\$115,000
<i>subtotal, FWS</i>	\$280,000
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	
Operation of the National Park System	\$146,000
Historic Preservation Fund - Historically Black Colleges	\$15,000
Construction	\$589,000
<i>subtotal, NPS</i>	\$750,000
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY	
Surveys, Investigations, and Research	\$140,000
<i>subtotal, USGS</i>	\$140,000
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS	
Operation of Indian Programs	\$40,000
Construction	\$450,000
Indian Guaranteed Loan program	\$10,000
<i>subtotal, BIA</i>	\$500,000
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL	\$15,000
TOTAL DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS	\$3,005,000