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Part I: Recovery Act Implementation at the Department of the Interior

Background

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the Recovery Act) is an unprecedented investment in our country's future. Funding is to support job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization.

President Obama has set out specific goals in implementing the Recovery Act, including:

- Create or save more than 3.5 million jobs government-wide over the next 2 years;
- Revive the renewable energy industry and provide the capital over the next 3 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 1950s; and
- Require unprecedented levels of transparency, oversight, and accountability.

The Department of the Interior will play an important role in this effort. Investments will focus on job creation, infrastructure needs, and creating lasting value. The opportunity provided by the Act will:

- Accelerate a move toward a clean energy economy;
- Provide jobs that build employable skills and develop an appreciation for environmental stewardship in young adults; and
- Preserve and restore the nation's iconic and treasured structures, landscapes, and cultural resources.

Project Selection

Criteria

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

- **Expediency of implementation.** The ability to execute a project within the legislated timeframe was an important practical consideration – can the project be responsibly executed within the time limitations of the Recovery Act? With a few exceptions, Recovery Act funds are available for obligation through September 30, 2010. In

addition, Section 1602 of the Act reads "...recipients shall give preference to activities that can be started and completed expeditiously, including a goal of using at least 50 percent of the funds for activities that can be initiated no later than 120 days after the date of enactment." The Department's concern was two-fold: 1) the purpose of the Recovery Act is to get funds out to stimulate the economy quickly; and 2) if funds are committed to a project that experiences a delay beyond September 30, 2010, the funds are no longer available for that project or any other bureau requirement. This criteria was a limiting factor that impacted other agency priorities considered during the selection process including meritorious projects that were not far enough along with design or permitting to be obligated by September 30, 2010.

- **Addresses high priority mission needs.** Does the project target the bureau's highest priorities within the categories specified in the legislation? 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? With respect to deferred maintenance and line item construction, is the ranking consistent with existing priorities and processes?
- **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?
- **Merit-based.** Was the project selected using merit-based and transparent criteria? Are competitive awards used to the maximum extent possible? Do the criteria incorporate existing prioritization processes?
- **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?
- **Energy objectives.** For proposed construction or deferred maintenance projects, do they incorporate energy efficient and renewable energy technologies? Do they have a component that will further clean energy and independence goals?
- **Opportunities for youth.** Does the project engage young adults and instill education about our public lands and cultural resources?
- **Future cost avoidance.** Does the project create new operational requirements in future years? Or, conversely, will the project decrease operating costs through energy improvements or disposal of unneeded and costly assets?

Priorities

Within the Executive Summary of each bureau recovery implementation plan is a discussion of the bureau's process for allocating priorities among the funding categories. The following principles are common among the bureau's initial allocation processes: response to the direction provided by Congress in the statute and accompanying report, and preliminary assessments of programmatic requirements and capability to effectively use additional funding. Once targets

for the funding categories were determined, project selection within the category was accomplished through a combination of consideration of merit-based criteria, using established processes where possible, project readiness, and additional benefits, such as operating cost reductions.

The primary established process for the prioritization and allocation of resources has been the Department's 5-Year planning process. The Department has a standard capital asset planning process, for which the bureaus develop 5-Year plans identifying deferred maintenance and construction needs. The 5-Year Deferred Maintenance (DM) and Capital Improvement Planning process is the backbone of the asset management plans which are used to formulate the Department's budget requests. The plans are developed and updated on an annual basis at the bureau level using uniform criteria to rank both DM and Capital Improvement Projects. Categories for ranking projects include Critical Health Safety, Critical Resource Protection, Energy, Critical Mission, Code Compliance, and Other Deferred Maintenance.

The categories used in the rating process are weighted so that projects that address critical health and safety needs will receive the highest score. The final score of a project also takes into account the asset priority for the project. The Department's goal in the 5-year planning process is to focus its limited resources on projects that are both mission critical and in the most need of repair/replacement.

The 5-year planning process is an established Departmental prioritization methodology used only in the development of construction and deferred maintenance requirements. There is no similar process for other program areas receiving Recovery Act funding such as habitat restoration or energy improvements. For those program areas, the bureau's specific evaluation process is described within the details of their program plan.

To the extent practicable, Recovery Act projects in deferred maintenance and construction were drawn from the 5-Year lists. Each bureau's detailed Recovery Act plan indicates the extent to which selected projects were derived from existing capital plans and provides the rationale for any exceptions.

There are legitimate reasons why a Recovery Act project might not come from a 5-Year Plan. In many cases, it reflects timing. The Recovery Act requires the obligation of funds by September 20, 2010. Projects involving complicated procurements, significant environmental considerations, or with considerable planning and design components, may not be good Recovery Act investments because of the need to obligate project funds quickly. In addition, Secretary Salazar has challenged each bureau to select projects that can also be accomplished within the timeframe of the Recovery Act.

The scope of the 5-Year plans is also limited. Each 5-Year Plan assumes a five year funding level consistent with prior appropriations. For some bureaus, the Recovery Act funding exceeds the total amounts assumed in the 5-Year Plans. In addition, two years of the available 5-Year Plans will be addressed through the regular FY 2009 and FY 2010 appropriation processes. In cases where the 5-Year Plan has been exhausted, the bureau has selected Recovery Act projects from other existing capital planning lists.

Contingency Projects

As part of the Department's internal process, each bureau has identified a list of eligible projects for Secretarial approval larger than the amount of available Recovery Act funding. Preparing for additional projects to be implemented by identifying a larger universe of eligible projects will expedite the deployment of alternate projects in the event that: (1) a specific Recovery Act project experiences delays in execution and cannot be implemented within Recovery Act timeframes or (2) other project cost estimates come in lower than anticipated, allowing additional projects to be funded within the bureau's total Recovery Act funding levels. These projects are not identified in this plan, but the projects will be announced once it is clear funds are available to support the projects. The selection of contingency projects will be included as part of regular reporting through recovery.gov.

Implementation of Recovery Act

Monitoring and Evaluation

The establishment of meaningful and measurable outcomes is an important component of Interior's Recovery Act reporting. Performance monitoring and oversight efforts are designed to ensure that the Department meets the accountability objectives of the Recovery Act.

These efforts include tracking the progress of key goals. The Department is defining a suite of performance measurements to monitor progress made in accomplishing stated work goals and to ensure financial and procurement practices are executed responsibly. In addition, the Department's Recovery Act Coordinator is collaborating with senior Departmental officials, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Office of Inspector General to ensure oversight of the program from the first phase of project selection, through implementation and execution. The Coordinator, with the assistance of the Recovery Act Board, will be evaluating processes to ensure that adequate mechanisms are in place and identify and share best practices to promote:

- Maximized use of competitive awards
- Timely and transparent award of dollars
- Timely and appropriate expenditure of dollars
- Verification and timely completion of planned work
- Minimized cost overruns
- Minimized improper payments

Measurement and reporting is a crucial component of Interior's oversight strategy. The information received will serve as an indicator of progress enabling the Department's governance entities to manage risk and ensure successful implementation of the Recovery Act. Department-wide, consistent guidance will guide efforts in this regard, including for example, development of a risk management program.

Accountability and Transparency

The President and Congress have made it clear that the Act must be carried out with unparalleled levels of accountability and transparency. The President's commitment to manage these investments transparently will be met through Agency reporting on performance metrics and the

execution of the funds on recovery.gov. Reporting requirements related to major contract actions and financial status, including obligations and outlays, are being instituted. Periodic reviews of implementation progress at both the bureau and Departmental levels will identify the need to realign resources to expedite projects, to modify project plans or to select contingency projects to ensure funds are obligated within the time limitation. The selection of contingency projects will be included as part of regular reporting through www.recovery.gov.

The Recovery Coordinator will oversee bureau implementation to 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 Office of Inspector General will be working closely with the Department from the beginning to review and propose effective processes to manage risks, monitor progress and to improve overall performance and accountability.

As part of routine reporting, the Department is also carefully tracking all projects subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). During the project selection phase the Department identified which projects had already completed NEPA planning, which are in progress, and which ones still need to begin the NEPA process. The Department will track the status of all NEPA compliance activities associated with projects or activities and report quarterly to the Council on Environmental Quality.

Administration

The Department's oversight and administration is led by the Secretary with leadership by the Recovery Act Coordinator. He utilizes an Executive Board and Department-wide Task Force to assist. 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 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 four programmatic Assistant Secretaries within Interior and the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget.

The Recovery Act Task Force ensures consistent implementation of the Recovery Act promotes collaboration and sharing of skills and best practices among bureaus, develops implementation guidance, oversees the process for completion of Recovery Act plans and project lists, and develops the infrastructure needed for on-going monitoring of progress and performance. It 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.

There are workgroups reporting to the Task Force that are developing processes and guidance on reporting, performance, communications, project approval, administration, risk management, acquisitions, and youth involvement. As implementation progresses, workgroups will be disbanded and others may be established.

In addition to these Departmental groups, each bureau has established its own governance structure. Bureau task forces and boards will ensure that programs execute projects effectively and meet the accountability and transparency objectives of the Act. A Recovery Act coordinator has been designated for each bureau.

The bureau 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 task forces meet regularly to ensure proper oversight. Each bureau has developed a leadership structure to manage the Recovery Act implementation. Responsibility for key components, such as reporting and oversight, has been delegated to the bureaus' senior management officials. The bureaus will also use staff in the field to provide direct oversight and leadership and provide reports to their executive leadership.

Barriers to Effective Implementation

The volume of funding provided in the Recovery Act and the contracts that will be awarded to execute these resources will challenge Interior's current procurement processing capacity. Interior's FY 2009 appropriation was \$11.3 Billion. The Recovery Act supplements this request by \$3 billion, an increase of 27 percent over the original request. Interior has taken a common-sense approach to best utilize existing resources to implement the Recovery Act. However, the investment required to handle the increase in funding will strain Interior's on-board resources. While the Act authorizes the set-aside of monetary resources to alleviate the administrative burden (e.g. hiring additional contracts staff), the real management issue is ensuring that procurement resources, no matter how plentiful, are knowledgeable and responsible. The Department plans to meet these resource challenges by sharing staff and expertise across bureaus, hiring term and temporary staff, and reemploying knowledgeable annuitants.

In addition to expanding resources to implement the Recovery Act, Interior is also working to streamline business processes to help alleviate resource challenges. The bureaus are encouraged to make use of techniques such as the grouping of like work orders into a single project to reduce acquisition time. Another example that is currently under consideration is the consolidation of procurement functions related to the Recovery Act. This strategy would relieve seasoned acquisition staff of their routine duties to have them focus on Recovery Act procurements. The regular duties would be assumed by alternative DOI acquisition staff. Concentrating Recovery Act procurement expertise would result in processing efficiencies and expedite the use of funds.

There are external considerations that may also pose barriers to the effective implementation of Recovery Act projects. The Department's ability to execute selected projects is dependent on the availability of qualified contractors. The supply of contractors able to meet an aggressive project schedule may get smaller as more Recovery Act projects are advertised and projects start to compete for resources. Delays or increased costs could be experienced in areas with a small indigenous workforce where several projects are proposed and resources are only available from a greater distance.

Although the initial project selection process considered potential risks to the timely obligation of funds, projects may experience unforeseen delays in achieving key project milestones such as design or permitting. The Department has developed a contingency list of approved projects to address this situation; however, the process to recognize and terminate a selected project will delay implementation of the contingency project. As implementation moves closer to the September 30, 2010 expiration date for unobligated funds, contingency projects are more likely to be selected for expediency rather than for other considerations.

Another factor in the execution of the Department's Recovery projects will be unforeseen requirements of critical mission activities. One bureau in particular, the Bureau of Land Management, has indicated that a high fire season could significantly delay their ability to execute Recovery projects. During a fire, most of BLM's Federal staff in the regions are also trained firefighters and when called to duty, non-essential duties take a second priority.

To the extent possible, Interior has taken steps to address these considerations to get the work of the Recovery Act done. Interior's governance bodies, such as the Recovery Act Task Force and the subsidiary acquisition workgroup, will handle resource issues raised by its members and the bureaus to ensure adequate staffing and contingency planning for the Recovery Act implementation.

Part II: Recovery Act Implementation at the BLM

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) appropriated \$305 million to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Recovery Act will stimulate the economy by investing in public land assets managed by BLM and by making key BLM lands available for renewable energy development. The Act provides BLM with an opportunity to address critical infrastructure and habitat needs while assisting America by creating jobs of lasting value. The Recovery Act appropriation for BLM states:

*TITLE VII—INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT OF LANDS AND RESOURCES

For an additional amount for “Management of Lands and Resources (MLR)”, for activities on all Bureau of Land Management lands including maintenance, rehabilitation, and restoration of facilities, property, trails and lands and for remediation of abandoned mines and wells, \$125,000,000.

CONSTRUCTION

For an additional amount for “Construction”, for activities on all Bureau of Land Management lands including construction, reconstruction, decommissioning and repair of roads, bridges, trails, property, and facilities and for energy efficient retrofits of existing facilities, \$180,000,000.

BLM Accountable Official

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Funding Categories

Funding for BLM was authorized under title VII of the Recovery Act. This Plan describes in detail, how the BLM will spend those funds. Our Plan to spend Recovery Act funds is divided into eight categories:

- 1) Renewable Energy Authorization (Management of Lands and Resources): The BLM will facilitate and expedite the processing and permitting of environmentally responsible renewable energy development on public lands managed by the BLM. Funding in the Recovery Act will be used for environmental preparations including environmental impact statements for compliance with National Environmental Policy Act and for a series of

studies and analyses that are required to provide access to Federal lands for renewable energy production. Completion of this work will expedite renewable energy permitting.

- 2) Habitat Restoration (MLR): Funds will be used to restore and protect habitats for at-risk plant and animal communities, specifically those in National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) areas and other special areas on public lands managed by the BLM. Projects involving partnerships that leverage funds, create jobs, and/or involve youth are emphasized.
- 3) Deferred Maintenance (MLR and Const): Funds will be used for facility maintenance and rehabilitation, incorporating energy efficiency where possible at BLM sites and facilities, such as campgrounds and recreation sites. Projects that address health and safety and other priority projects that will reduce BLM's deferred maintenance are emphasized. Funds will be used for energy retrofit projects that increase energy efficiency, including installing renewable energy upgrades such as solar panels and wind turbines.
- 4) Abandoned Mines (MLR): Funds will be used at high priority abandoned mine projects located on BLM lands to mitigate physical safety hazards, reduce risks at sites at or close to public use areas, and expedite planned actions. Immediacy of need to validate, inventory, and remediate sites identified by the DOI, Office of Inspector General in audit reports.
- 5) Construction (Const): Funds will be used to accelerate planned renovations, health and safety improvements, repair and rehabilitation, energy retrofits and other projects to provide needed upgrades at BLM sites and facilities, such as buildings, in an effort to address health and safety deficiencies and address deferred maintenance projects. Funds will also be used on BLM facilities to incorporate renewable energy generating technologies such as solar and wind that will decrease dependence on fossil fuels and increase efficiencies by offsetting the use of utility-based energy.
- 6) Abandoned Wells: (Const): Funds will be used to remediate and plug the Drew Point Well in northern Alaska. This abandoned well, drilled by the Federal Government, is at extremely high-risk of eroding into the Beaufort Sea, potentially creating serious environmental degradation.
- 7) Road and Bridges (Const): Funds will be used to provide needed repairs and upgrades to BLM roads, bridges, and culverts, including paving, grading, and other repairs.
- 7) Trails (Const): Funds will be used to maintain, improve and enhance trails across BLM-managed public lands through trail planning, design, maintenance, management, and monitoring. Trail projects will support the Agency's mission, land use planning goals and objectives in order to provide for resource management, public and administrative access, and transportation needs.

The table below describes the allocation of funding by Management of Lands and Resources and Construction.

American Recovery & Reinvestment Act			
Management of Lands and Resources	No. of Projects		
Renewable Energy – Facilitating Authorizations and Permits		Subtotals	
<i>*Environmental studies, analyses, and environmental preparations</i>	13		
<i>*Studies and Analyses</i>	49		
Habitat Restoration	142		
Deferred Maintenance	22		
Remediation of Abandoned Mines	80		
Administrative Support (5%)			
Total	306		\$125,000,000
Construction	No. of Projects		
Deferred Maintenance	120		
Construction	96		
Remediation of Abandoned Wells	1		
Roads and Bridges Maintenance and Construction	52		
Trail Maintenance and Construction	80		
Administrative Support (5%)			
Total	349		\$180,000,000
Grand Total	655		\$305,000,000

Governance at BLM

The BLM has established a Recovery Oversight Committee (ROC) to govern the implementation of the Recovery Act. The ROC membership is:

- Deputy Director of the BLM
- Chief of Staff
- Assistant Director Renewable Resources and Planning
- Assistant Director Minerals and Realty Management
- Assistant Director Communications
- Assistant Director Fire and Aviation

- Assistant Director Business and Fiscal Resources
- Director of NLCS
- Director of the BLM National Operations Center
- Nevada State Director
- Oregon State Director
- Recovery Act Project Manager

This membership brings together all of the Assistant Directors with program responsibility for projects described below, and the State Directors ensure that the operational aspects of implementing the Recovery Act are considered. With the assistance of this group the Deputy Director is able to coordinate actions within the BLM to efficiently and effectively implement the Act.

The ROC is tasked to monitor the accountability objectives of the law, including the following:

- Funds are awarded and distributed in a prompt manner that considers capacity;
- The recipients and uses of all funds are transparent to the public, and the public benefits of these funds are reported clearly, accurately, and in a timely manner;
- Funds are used for authorized purposes and instances of fraud, waste, error, and abuse are mitigated;
- Projects funded under the Act avoid unnecessary delays and cost overruns; and
- Program goals are achieved, including specific program outcomes and improved results on broader economic indicators.

The ROC set the priorities for the initial selection of projects, reviewed, and prioritized the lists of projects selected for funding. If it becomes necessary to add or remove projects, the ROC will approve those changes. The ROC has reviewed and issues BLM-specific policy to build upon direction from Congress, OMB, and the Department. The ROC will track the progress of projects and ensure that decisions to deal with problems or opportunities are issued promptly. All policy, guidance and data calls related to the Recovery Act must be approved by the ROC. The ROC meets weekly (more frequently if needed) and a record of all decisions are posted on the BLM intranet.

The Recovery Act Project Manager leads a team with representatives for Renewable Energy, Construction and Deferred Maintenance, Treasured Landscapes, and Hazardous Fuels. The Team also has representatives for Business Processes, Communications. This team ensures that the Recovery Act is implemented according to the provisions of the Act and in accordance with the decisions and policy established by the ROC. The team links with program managers and state leads across the BLM to interpret guidance and eliminate barriers to success, and to monitor performance. An intranet site has been created to bring all policy, guidance, best practices, and Frequently Asked Questions together for use by all employees working on the Recovery Act projects. In addition the Project Manager hosts weekly calls with State Coordinators to update the field on decisions of the ROC, new guidance from DOI or OMB, and to respond to questions. The project manager has authority to coordinate actions needed to implement the Recovery Act.

The implementation of the Recovery Act in a manner that meets the goals of the Administration will be incorporated into a performance element in all of the BLM Executives' annual performance plans.

The BLM will use existing General Management Evaluations and special evaluation teams to track performance in the next two years.

Process for Allocating Funding Among Categories

The Recovery Act provided direction to the BLM in language that identified project categories for funding but also provided some discretion indicating that funds were “for activities on all Bureau of Land Management lands.” Using existing plans and processes the bureau made a preliminary assessment of programmatic requirements and capability to effectively use additional funding and developed a list of potential the Recovery Act projects.

Renewable Energy Reviews and Studies

Environmental clearances including environmental impact statements, assessments and studies were identified based on business plans that established requirements for renewable energy permitting and clearances and the development of siting plans for transmission facilities. Recovery Act funding will accelerate planned projects and renewable energy access. The relative importance of the studies relative to the clearances needed, the geographic area relative to the siting, the aspect relative to environmental protection, and the information relative to the decision making necessary were evaluated.

Deferred Maintenance/Construction/Roads and Bridges

All Recovery Act projects were selected using a well established merit-based approach. The BLM focused its project identification process for deferred maintenance, construction, and roads and bridges projects on existing 5-Year Deferred Maintenance and Capital Improvement Plans (5-Year Plan). To be considered for funding under this process, projects are reviewed and scored using merit-based criteria.

The DOI 5-Year Planning process is the backbone of the DOI Asset Management Plan and Bureau Asset Management Plans. The 5-Year Plans are developed and updated on an annual basis at the bureau level using a uniform, Department-wide process for ranking both deferred maintenance and capital improvement projects. Project ranking categories include Critical Health Safety, Critical Resource Protection, Energy, Critical Mission, Code Compliance, and Other Deferred Maintenance.

Projects are submitted by the State BLM Offices with a priority ranking. Project scoring is conducted by BLM asset management specialists and 5-Year Plans are developed for Deferred Maintenance including roads and bridges, and bureau-wide Construction. Deferred maintenance plans are program specific, and senior program managers in each program area make the final determination on the composition of the 5-Year Plans considering DOI scoring, regional priorities, and program capacity, and the ability to complete in required timeframes. This includes readiness for implementation, completion of planning and design (as needed) and completion of environmental and cultural reviews (as needed.. Consistent with OMB’s Capital Planning and Investment Control guidance, the bureau’s Construction Investment Review Board (IRB) evaluates proposed construction projects and then determines the composition of the 5-Year Plan based on DOI score, regional recommendations, and overall bureau priorities.

Abandoned Mines/Abandoned Wells/Habitat Restoration/Trails

In considering funding required for abandoned mine activities, the bureau selected 80 projects from the BLM AML Strategic Plan that will address immediate physical safety hazards and threats related to public use and location and were the focus of three DOI Inspector General (IG) audits. These mines pose a significant threat to public safety and threaten the environment from erosion and contaminants.

With regard to abandoned well activities, the BLM selected one project, the highest priority legacy well, Drew Point, which poses an immediate threat of collapse and release of contaminants into the Beaufort Sea. Other projects were evaluated and determined not to be an immediate threat to the environment and subsistence.

The bureau identifies habitat and trail restoration projects that are needed to protect resources, provide visitor access, have partnership components, reduce fire risk, and other factors through land use plans such as Resource Management Plans, National Landscape Conservation System unit plans, fire management plans, and other planning processes. The planning process is a public process where BLM works with private parties, public agencies, and local working groups to develop conservation strategies, watershed plans, and forest restoration goals. Plans can be very specific, such as replacing all culverts in a single watershed, or more general, such as improving fish passage. Resource Management Plans are normally written for a single Field Office or NLCS unit.

Each Field Office maintains a record of planned projects. Each year, as part of the Annual Work Plan (AWP) process, District Offices (the second tier of the BLM's 3-tier field organization) establish priorities among their projects that incorporate national priorities. National priorities include the Department and Bureau's Strategic Plan, guidance from Congress and from OMB. Once the priorities are established, the highest priority projects are entered into the Budget Planning System (BPS). Recovery Act funding will allow BLM to accelerate completion of planned projects.

The BPS system requires a State-wide evaluation to determine priorities for projects in each State organization. At this level, projects are re-ranked using similar criteria, but projects are compared on the basis of State-wide needs. Additional evaluation factors, such as past performance are used in this review to ensure only the most important projects are submitted to the national level for consideration for funding.

Part III: Renewable Energy Authorization

Program	Funding Amount	# of Projects Per Category
Renewable Energy Authorization Support (MLR)		62

Program Manager

Ray Brady, BLM Renewable Energy Manager, (202) 557-3378.

The Administration's Renewable Energy Program

The President's New Energy for America Plan sets a target to generate 10 percent of the Nation's electricity from renewable sources by 2012 and 25 percent by 2025. Encouraging the production, development, and delivery of renewable energy is one of the Department of the Interior's highest priorities. Recently, a Secretarial Order issued by Secretary Salazar, directed the Department to identify specific "Federal Renewable Energy Zones" on public lands where Interior can facilitate a rapid and responsible move to large-scale production of solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass energy.

Beginning in 2009, the BLM will make a major push to promote renewable energy by launching a multi-year strategy that will enable BLM to implement a coordinated regional approach to developing our Nation's renewable energy potential. This Recovery Act Plan outlines BLM's proposal to use the Recovery Act funds to support the NEPA requirements and other associated studies to establish Federal Renewable Energy Zones and lay the foundation for a more proactive and forward-thinking renewable energy program.

Renewable energy projects on public lands managed by the BLM include wind, solar, geothermal and biomass projects, as well as the siting of the transmission infrastructure needed to support this development. The BLM currently has 241 applications for wind projects and 199 applications for solar projects which are in various stages of processing.

Under current procedures, renewable energy projects are funded by fees collected under rights-of-way cost recovery guidelines to support the processing of wind and solar energy project authorizations. There is no funding allocated for renewable energy development to advance preparation and analyses required to properly coordinate development efforts to ensure maximum effectiveness in the scale and siting of renewable energy projects. The current cost-recovery approach requires that BLM complete work before seeking cost recovery. This restricts the number of projects that can be completed. It also restricts spending to only those efforts that further each specific application. Therefore, BLM cannot complete work in a coordinated manner that allows the development of regional approaches.

Federal Renewable Energy Zones and BLM's Recovery Act Funding

The BLM will address two types of renewable energy activities: currently pending wind and solar applications; and efforts to shape the siting and scale of future projects/applications in coordination with planned transmission capability. To address both of these needs, the BLM is implementing a Renewable Energy Business Plan that: (1) puts in place specific regional strategies; (2) incorporates the Federal Renewable Energy Zones into the planning process; and (3) reduces the time and expense involved in processing individual permit applications.

Renewable energy zones are a central feature of the Business Plan to facilitate cooperation with numerous Federal, State and local governments to guide responsible renewable energy development on federal lands, and to improve coordination with existing and emerging

organizations such as the Western Governors Association. The BLM intends to get in front of the expected dramatic growth in renewable energy applications and to phase these applications to better match transmission planning also underway. By focusing resources on areas with the greatest renewable production potential, coordinated with transmission planning and with industry, federal, state and regional renewable energy development efforts, the bureau hopes to get more energy online sooner to the end-user.

To implement this new Federal Renewable Energy Zone strategy, a complement of NEPA programmatic environmental impact statements (EIS) and other associated studies must be undertaken. The BLM plans to accomplish these studies with the Recovery Act Funds.

By funding all the necessary environmental preparation on a regional basis in advance of processing individual applications, the BLM will be in a position to offer sites and evaluate potential projects in a planned and coordinated manner in the areas of highest renewable energy production potential. This will allow the BLM to offer sites based on energy production potential and near-term transmission capability, and to offer these sites for much larger scale energy production projects than has previously been possible. Large scale energy production is necessary to provide cost-effective energy to the end-user across long distances.

Under the current cost recovery-based process, the BLM must handle each application as it is received, without regard for scale or siting, and can only charge for those efforts specifically related to disposition of each individual application on its own merits. With the expected increase in applications, the resulting complications from this approach will quickly overwhelm current capabilities resulting in delayed processing and less than optimal siting and scale of projects approved. Acting quickly to implement this change will permit working down the existing backlog of applications while also implementing the process change before the backlog becomes unmanageable. One of the main concerns with the application-by-application approach is that small-scale applications in areas of high energy potential can actually prevent larger projects from moving forward in the same areas, particularly when competing transmission plans become involved.

The use of the Recovery Act funds will allow the BLM to accelerate the initial work to accomplish the Renewable Energy Zone strategy. The BLM estimates that initiating this work now will help to reduce the time needed to meet national energy production goals from renewable sources on federal lands by at least 1 to 2 years.

The BLM will utilize \$41 million in Recovery Act funds to complete regional EISs for 13 Renewable Energy Zones in FY 2010 (\$13 million) and complete the necessary studies and data collection to support large scale project offerings with a high probability of completion and energy production (\$28 million). Much larger scale renewable energy production and transmission would come online from FY 2011 forward as a result of the significant process changes made possible through Recovery Act funds.

During the period of execution for Recovery Act funds, solar EISs are the highest priority for completion. Due to differences in technology maturity, Programmatic EISs in most wind energy potential areas were initiated in FY 2005, and will be updated in FY 2010 and 2011. This means

these wind projects will not need funding under the Recovery Act. Under this plan, regional programmatic EISs will be completed for the highest priority Federal Renewable Energy Zones, which are those with high potential for solar, such as:

Arizona: Sonoran Desert North and Sonoran Desert South Zones

California: Imperial Valley East, Imperial Valley West, Riverside East, Ward Valley, and Pisgah Zones

Nevada: Tonopah, Las Vegas, and Amargosa Zones

New Mexico: Las Cruces and Alamogordo Zones

Colorado: San Luis Valley Zone

In addition to the regional NEPA efforts, BLM has identified other studies and analyses required to expedite development of renewable energy production.

A number of selection criteria were used to prioritize renewable energy study efforts, resulting in a project package of studies that will maximize the potential to expedite the processing of applications and optimize siting decisions for planned transmission capabilities. The highest priority is to examine the potential for reuse of previously disturbed land to expand renewable energy project siting options. Next in priority are Ecological Assessments required in advance of future planned EISs and other studies to supplement the EISs to be funded under this the Recovery Act plan. Studies will assess the potential impact on regional wildlife, nearby populations, cultural and prehistoric sites. In the case of wind farms, this includes ways to reduce impacts on bird populations and reducing what is sometimes referred to as horizon pollution through a technique called visual resource management. These studies are required for siting and authorization decisions.

The next grouping of projects is related to analyzing best management practices, providing technical support, and facilitating long term process improvement by providing accurate information to industry, local government entities, and to the public on the status of applications and optimal siting options. This is enabling long-term improvements in siting and authorizing renewable energy projects and related transmission capabilities. The studies and support to be completed with the \$28.0 million in Recovery Act funds are described below.

Activities

- **Land Reuse Potential:** Examines the potential to reutilize lands previously disturbed by other activities to facilitate siting of renewable energy projects. This activity is in response to public concerns that renewable energy projects were being sited on BLM public lands that would potentially conflict with other natural resource values. This criterion for renewable energy studies was determined to be a high priority in an attempt to identify areas of previously disturbed land that could potentially be used for renewable energy development. The BLM Arizona State office identified a state-wide study for this purpose, and this is considered a high priority for the Bureau.
- **Wildlife Impact:** Provides for wildlife-focused Ecological Assessments to assess impacts related to solar development in the following ecological regions: Central Basin

and Range, Nevada; Colorado Plateau, Utah ; Mojave Desert, California; Sonoran Desert, Arizona; and Chihuahuan Desert, New Mexico. These ecological assessments provide the resource inventory information necessary to prepare subsequent NEPA analyses for specific solar energy development proposals and to assist in the identification of mitigation measures to address wildlife impacts. In addition to the Ecological Assessments, there are several smaller studies involving sage-grouse and other wildlife issues associated with wind energy development in Oregon and Wyoming, and a threatened and endangered species inventory associated with solar energy development in Colorado.

- **Cultural/Paleontological Studies:** Provides ethnographic studies and cultural clearances in support of wind, and solar resource assessments in California, cultural clearances for solar development in Colorado, and cultural impact mitigation and paleontological overviews for wind assessments in Wyoming.
- **Visual Resource Management:** VRM studies are primarily related to wind projects. These funds are to conduct visual resource inventories and to provide training in Colorado, viewshed analyses of Historic Trails in Nevada and Wyoming, visual resource inventory for the Rawlins Resource Management Plan, and camouflage testing in Wyoming. Camouflage techniques are useful in reducing the visual impact of wind turbines in various scenic backgrounds.
- **Technical Support:** The engineering and other technical support will provide contracted assistance to field offices to support scarce skill needs in reviewing wind and solar development opportunities on public lands. These funds are to conduct a technical review of solar plans of development in Nevada, to analyze best management practices for wind energy in Utah, and to provide contracted training and technical support for renewable energy efforts in Colorado.
- **Renewable Energy Case Records Verification and Updates to Provide Application Status:** Case records management for renewable energy applications has been hampered by the lack of reliable and up-to-date BLM case records information. There has not been capability to fully address this problem, and previous piecemeal approaches have actually contributed to increased fragmentation and a lack of reliable case records information. The BLM needs to be able to provide Federal and state agencies and public access to reliable land records in order to identify potential areas for renewable energy development and to accelerate development of these resources. In order to effectively manage and allow for expedited processing of renewable energy projects, it is essential that missing data be collected and existing data reviewed and updated, consistent with quality control requirements. Without completely accurate case records, information cannot be made widely available to facilitate communication and decision making. Almost all of the jobs related to this effort will be located in the individual BLM State and Field Offices, and funds will be distributed to each. These projects hold a high potential for hiring of college age youth for data collection, review, and update.

- **Lands Status Renewable Energy Information Updates to Facilitate Public and Industry Applications:** One of the greatest difficulties in providing accurate information to industry and to the public is in resolving data differences between GIS-based information and traditional land records information regarding land availability and potential public use, environmental and other potential impacts. Renewable energy implementation efforts require reliable, up-to-date lands and resource information. Funding will be used for data conversion, data entry, and required resolution of information inconsistencies between survey-based information and GIS-based information. This is necessary in order to improve reliability, usefulness, and information sharing with the public. Almost all of the jobs related to this effort will be located in the individual BLM State and Field Offices, and funds will be distributed to each State.

The one-time project funding provided in this Recovery Act implementation plan will advance implementation of BLM’s renewable energy strategy. Recovery Act funds will allow BLM fund one-time program requirements that will provide the foundation for full implementation of the strategy. BLM expects to initiate longer-term program changes as well to sustain the process changes initiated under the Renewable Energy Business Plan and made possible with Recovery Act funds.

Selection Criteria

- Contribution to Renewable Energy development.
- Implementation of strategic change to reduce time for large-scale energy projects to deliver renewable energy to the end-user from and across federal lands.
- Investment in long-term process improvement to facilitate accomplishment of the President’s renewable energy goals out to 2025.
- Potential to create or support jobs.
- Potential for employment of youth (data collection and records update projects).

Characteristics (Types of Financial Awards to be Used)

Type of Award	# of projects in this category	\$ Value of projects	Award Selection Criteria
Contracts	62		Methods available: open market competition; orders using completed Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity; completed GSA schedule orders and other. Criteria for evaluation will be based on statement of work, successful record of past performance, and indicated ability

Type of Award	# of projects in this category	\$ Value of projects	Award Selection Criteria
			to meet cost schedule and schedule milestones.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure # 1

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Performance Measure # 2

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Project Milestones and Completion

Types of Projects

Description	# of Projects
NEPA	13
Renewable Energy Studies/Support (RESS)	49

Completion Rate

Quarter	# of Projects Completed - NEPA	# of Projects Completed - RESS	TOTAL # OF PROJECTS COMPLETED	Cumulative % of Projects Completed
FY 2009 Q2				
FY 2009 Q3				
FY 2009 Q4		1	1	2%
FY 2010 Q1		2	2	5%
FY 2010 Q2		1	1	6%
FY 2010 Q3	13	5	18	35%
FY 2010 Q4		12	12	55%
FY 2011 Q1		28	28	100%
FY 2011 Q2				
FY 2011 Q3				
FY 2011 Q4				

Savings/Costs Implications

With the expedited NEPA work and Studies funded by the Recovery Act, the BLM will reduce the time it takes to authorize renewable energy projects. Over time, as additional projects are authorized, BLM expects that some of this spending may be recouped through cost recovery requirements. Permitted projects will also result in rental payments, which will further offset the ultimate cost to the Government.

Part IV: Habitat Restoration

Program	Funding Amount	# of Projects Per Category
Habitat Restoration (MLR)		142

Program Manager

Ed Roberson, Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning, (202) 208-4896

Objectives

Through contracts and partnership agreements, the BLM will implement land restoration activities that will protect and conserve native plant and animal communities.

A typical project in the habitat restoration category creates jobs in the restoration of watersheds (soils, vegetation, water) and increases the associated “green” values of healthy watersheds, provides clean and increased volumes of water for recreational and agricultural uses, increases populations of wildlife that support consumptive and non-consumptive uses by the public and stabilizes populations of wildlife and plant species that are classified as sensitive. Some projects will also reduce fire risk and reduce invasive species. These types of projects often are contracted, but are generally the direct result of partnership efforts between State and Federal Agencies, volunteer groups, non-governmental organizations, and the public. The projects protect and enhance wildlife and biological diversity, improve water quality and availability, promote the opportunity for sustainable agriculture, and maintain quality of life through economic and social values of healthy watersheds.

For example, culvert replacement projects involve creating fish passage in streams where there are barriers. The types of contracts the BLM will issue for this work include: surveyors for pre-project assessment, flag bearers on functioning roads (must occasionally stop traffic for portions of the installation), manual laborers (guiding culverts when placed by excavator), excavator operator, dump truck operator, surveyors for post-project assessment and effectiveness monitoring activities (site habitat surveys, fish response, etc.)

The longer term benefits of habitat restoration projects provide sustainability and increased protection of local communities by reducing the risk of fire and from invasive species through habitat improvements. Local communities will also benefit from reduced wind and water soil

erosion, as well as improved water quality and availability associated with implementing these restoration and habitat improvement projects.

Activities

Habitat restoration activities include:

- Restore and protect key habitat through vegetation treatments, installation of wildlife friendly fencing, and creating fish passages or barriers to protect aquatic species.
- Restore and protect sage grouse, desert tortoise, and other upland habitats for special species as well as riparian habitat for endangered or special status fish and aquatic species.
- Restore forest health while producing alternative energy from biomass on federal lands and indirectly reduce the potential for carbon dioxide emissions from controlled burns and wildfires
- Protect large-scale intact habitat by inventorying and removing invasive species in upland and riparian areas and reducing fuel loads.
- Collect, increase, and distribute native seed for vegetation treatments.

Selection Criteria

Selection Criteria at the State Level: The existing process for the prioritization and selection of habitat restoration projects is described in Part II. Recovery Act project selection began at the State level where previously identified habitat restoration projects were evaluated to determine if they met the following criteria:

- Could be accomplished in 18 months.
- NEPA was complete or minimal NEPA requirements.
- Procurements could be expedited.
- Potential to create or support jobs.

Many of the BLM state offices identified projects with additional benefits such as they address special status species or were located in counties significantly impacted by the economic downturn.

Selection Criteria at the National Level: The Washington Office resource specialists then assigned each project a numerical value which highlighted projects having:

- A watershed or landscape approach.
- An interdisciplinary nature.
- Effectiveness monitoring.

The BLM directorate then provided additional guidance that the project must:

- Be within a National Landscape Conservation Area or a specially designated BLM area.
- Provide habitat for threatened and endangered species, or
- Be within a riparian or wetland area.

As an example, to select forest restoration projects to include in Habitat Restoration, the Forestry Program developed a ranking process. The criteria consist of the project criteria combined with

forest and woodland program specific objectives, such as forest health and restoration, multiple program objectives, and unit cost effectiveness. Where projects received similar rankings, additional weight was given to the project's potential for renewable energy generation, proximity to a forest products utilization center, and stimulation of forest products and energy related industry.

The Bureau has an inventory of work that could be funded by the Recovery Act. More projects were identified than dollars available in this category. To prioritize the list, additional project benefits such as an identified youth component were considered. Projects that involved a commitment (either in dollars or in kind services) from partners were also given more weight.

The Recovery Act (Section 702) directs the use of youth partnerships, where practicable.

The Washington Office final selection process ensured that only projects that met as many of the criteria described above were chosen for funding under the Recovery Act. Approximately \$400 million in projects were submitted by the BLM state offices for consideration. As a result of this rigorous screening process, approximately 142 projects valued at \$37 million were chosen for funding under the Recovery Act.

Characteristics (Types of Financial Awards to be Used)

Type of Award	# of projects in this category *	\$ Value of projects	Targeted type of recipients	Award Selection Criteria
Contracts	79		Technicians	Methods available: open market competition; orders using completed Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity; completed GSA schedule orders and other. Criteria for evaluation will be based on statement of work, successful record of past performance, and indicated ability to meet cost schedule and schedule milestones.
Grants	10		Non-profit groups	Funds will be awarded using established procedures for announcing and making grants. Applications will be evaluated on the proposed statement of work, successful record of past performance, and indicated ability to meet cost and schedule milestones.
Cooperative Agreements	53		Non-profit groups and other partners	Criteria for evaluating proposals for award through cooperative agreements will be based on statement of work, successful record of past performance, and indicated ability to meet cost schedule and schedule milestones.
Total	142			

(The numbers in this table will be updated by information provided from Field and State Offices.)

Performance Measures

Performance Measure # 1

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Performance Measure # 2

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Performance Measure # 3

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Project Milestones and Completion

Types of Projects		
Project	Description	# of Projects
	Upland Acres Restored/Treated	92
	Miles of Riparian/Streams Restored/Treated	19
	Invasive Species Treated/Managed	30
Large Construction Projects (Exceeding \$2M)	Medford Oregon biomass project	1

The number of projects in each of these categories will be determined through information provided by State and Field Offices on the actions associated with each project.

Part V: Deferred Maintenance

Program	Funding Amount	# of Projects Per Category
Deferred Maintenance (MLR)		22
Deferred Maintenance (Const)		120

Program Manager

Janine Velasco, Assistant Director, Business and Fiscal Resources (202) 208-4864

Objectives

Visitor and employee health and safety will be better protected by committing Recovery Act funds to critical deferred maintenance. The deferred maintenance funding will improve BLM buildings and structures by addressing critical health and safety improvements and creating future cost avoidance through energy efficiency. The BLM will improve recently identified health and safety needs in the BLM's building and structures. This funding will also include installation of energy efficient technologies at these facilities and structures, which will reduce the energy cost of operating BLM facilities. The projects funded in this category include the addition of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) buildings and improve the sustainable features of all structures as called for under the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. A LEED certification standard for buildings is used to achieve the required sustainability and energy efficient standards for the Federal Government.

An example of a LEED certified deferred maintenance project is the replacement of the BLM Farmington Field Office in New Mexico. This project will replace the current building that has a current Facility Condition Index (FCI) of 0.41 (indicating poor condition).

Activities

Critical Health and Safety issues consisting of:

- Repair and replacement of comfort stations.
- Repair and replace potable water systems and waste water treatment facilities.
- Dispose of unsafe structures and replace with sustainable structures.
- Upgrade facility health & safety quality by fixing outstanding audit findings.

Energy efficient and renewable energy improvements including:

- Construction of new BLM facilities consistent with LEED standards to replace buildings in need of disposal due to critical health and safety issues.
- Install efficient alternative energy systems to provide adequate sustainable sources of energy in remote locations.
- Resolve many critical health and safety issues with sustainable materials upgrades.

Selection Criteria

Starting with the 5-Year Deferred Maintenance and Capital Improvement (DM-CI) plan, the BLM solicited from each State Office a prioritized ranking of projects for each category with the specified criteria would that the projects would create jobs and be accomplished within 18 months. A list of 545 projects was identified for consideration with Recovery Act funding. This accounted for over \$275 million of deferred maintenance projects. From this lists, BLM selected 142 projects for completion with Recovery Act funding. All of the projects selected to receive Recovery Act funding are included in the 2010-2014 5-year Plan.

The selection criteria for these projects consisted of:

- Addressed critical health and safety needs.
- Provided energy efficient retrofits or renewable energy components.
- Proximity to treasured landscapes (which included NLCS, Special Recreation Management Areas [SRMA], etc.).
- Potential to create or support jobs.
- Completion of project within 18 months.

The remaining projects not selected for Recovery Act funding were compiled into the revised BLM 5-Year Deferred Maintenance Plan for FY 2010-2014 using DOI scoring criteria.

Characteristics (Types of Financial Awards to be Used)

Type of Award	# of projects in this category	\$ Value of projects	Targeted type of recipients	Award Selection Criteria (high-level bullets)
Contracts	142		0	Methods available: open market competition; orders using completed Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity; completed GSA schedule orders and other. Criteria for evaluation will be based on statement of work, successful record of past performance, and indicated ability to meet cost schedule and schedule milestones.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure # 1

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Performance Measure # 2

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Project Milestones and Completion

Types of Projects

Project	Description	# of Projects
Recreation Sites IB	Recreation Sites Deferred Maintenance and Construction (Number of Projects) Work includes site upgrades to incorporate sustainable features at recreation sites	46
Administrative Sites IN	Administrative Site Deferred Maintenance and Construction (Number of Projects) Work to include: life safety improvements and repairs to buildings, communication sites and installation of energy efficient systems at administrative sites.	54
Dams IK	Dam Deferred Maintenance and Construction (Number of Projects) Work to include repair work on dams sites	5
Roads IQ	Road Deferred Maintenance and Construction (Number of Projects) Road repair of existing roads, culverts and parking areas to mitigate outstanding health and safety issues. Repair consists of road realignment, gravel replacement, paving and chip seal as required.	29
Bridges IH	Bridge Deferred Maintenance and Construction (Number of Projects) Bridge repair and replacement to correct outstanding critical health and safety issues.	4
Large Construction Projects (Exceeding \$2M)		4

Completion Rate

Completion rates will be adjusted upon completion of the PDS and better estimates of actual milestone measures

Qrt	# of Projects Complete Dams IK	# of Projects Complete Bridges IH	# of Projects Complete Roads IQ	# of Projects Complete Admin Sites IB	# of Projects Complete Rec Sites IN	# of Projects Complete \$2 M above	TOTAL # of Projects Complete	Cumulative % of Projects Complete
FY 09 Q4	2	0	2	8	5	0	17	12%
FY 10 Q1	2	0	0	18	19	0	39	40%
FY 10 Q2	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	41%
FY 10 Q3	0	2	16	21	21	0	60	84%
FY 10 Q4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	84%
FY 11 Q1	1	1	3	7	7	1	20	97%
FY 11 Q2	0	0	3	1	0	4	8	100%

The Milestones for the Building and Site projects will be collected upon the completion of the Project Data Sheets (PDS) for each project. Project selection was dependent on 100 percent obligation of Recovery Act funds by October 1, 2010. Funding for the two projects, which will be completed after October 1, 2010, will be tracked closely to ensure milestones are met.

Projects

Key Milestones

Milestones	Average Length of Completion
Planning	-
Permitting	-
Design	2 months
Procurement	3 months
Construction Award/Start	1 month
Project Completion	12 month

*Assumes planning is completed for all Recovery Act projects and permitting is not normally required on Federal Buildings.

Savings/Costs Implications

Deferred maintenance repairs will decrease annual maintenance and operating costs. The BLM has also planned for some disposals with the Recovery Act funding to eliminate unsafe, underutilized, and inefficient buildings and structures. The estimated cost savings for the Recovery Act renewable energy deferred maintenance projects are expected to improve with the

institution of sustainable measures. Electrical consumption at buildings and other structures will be reduced.

Part VI: Abandoned Mines

Program	Funding Amount	# of Projects Per Category
Abandoned Mines		80

Program Manager

Ed Roberson, Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning, (WO-200), 202-208-4896

Objectives

The Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) program has selected most of the abandoned mine projects that will receive Recovery Act funds from the AML Cooperative Conservation Based Strategic Plan for the AML Program (2006). The Strategic Plan prioritized projects using risk-based criteria. The other projects selected for Recovery Act funding were identified through recent abandoned mine inventory efforts. The purpose of BLM's AML program is to assist the DOI, BLM, and partners in fulfilling broad missions of improving water quality and enhancing public safety. The program's vision is to mitigate hazards to protect public health and safety, and restore watersheds for resources, recreation, fish, and wildlife, by remediating all known hardrock AML sites on or affecting the public lands.

Most of the AML projects were selected for Recovery Act funding because of physical safety hazards and their close proximity to public places and high-use areas such as trails, designated off-highway vehicle areas, picnic areas, schools, and subdivisions. Unmitigated physical safety hazards, such as open adits and shafts, at abandoned mine sites were highlighted as major concerns in recent Office of Inspector General (OIG) AML audit reports. Furthermore, the AML program received a \$7.5 million increase in 2009 for the purpose of mitigating physical safety hazards. The significant funding levels provided by Recovery Act will greatly accelerate those efforts.

Because efforts focus on mitigating physical safety hazards, only a small number of the projects listed to receive Recovery Act funds address environmental issues. AML projects which have environmental attributes are usually complex in scope and require extensive work as required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liabilities Act and do not fit the limitations of the Stimulus act. Recovery Act funds will also be used to validate and inventory AML sites.

The Recovery Act funding will help to mitigate the physical and environmental abandoned mine hazards in the National System of Public Lands. These funds will expedite the completion of projects listed in the AML program strategic plan, help to address the recommendations contained in the OIG audits, and continue to provide a safe landscape for the public to safely

enjoy.

Activities

- Temporary adit and shaft closures: Utilize youth and contractors to construct fences and erect signs at open mine adits and shafts with heavy equipment operation, labor, engineering, and welders to address physical safety hazard projects.
- Permanent adit and shaft closures: Engage construction tradesman to close open mine adits and shafts with heavy equipment operation, engineers, physical labor, and welders to construct wildlife friendly closures such as bat gates and cupolas.
- Environmental cleanup: Employ environmental professionals to analyze environmental threats to human health and the environment and use heavy equipment operators for remediation actions such as the removal of contaminated mine waste.
- Abandoned mine inventories: Use students to verify the existence of abandoned mines in our current database, inventory features, and update the AML database
- Renewable energy: Upgrade to an existing water treatment plant.

Selection Criteria

Field and State AML personnel generated a list of projects for Recovery Act funding according to the guidance provided by the Department. Our top priority sites:

- Were listed in the BLM AML Strategic Plan.
- Were identified in audit reports by the OIG or had similar characteristics.
- Can be accomplished in the Recovery Act timeframes.
- Projects supports or creates jobs.

The BLM AML program has outstanding recommendations from three Inspector General audits, The findings within these reports focus on public safety as it relates to AML-related physical and environmental hazards. BLM management has committed to address the findings of the OIG reports within our stated timeframes. Use of Recovery Act funding will accelerate the completion of abandoned mine remediation to achieve program goals sooner.

Characteristics (Types of Financial Awards to be Used)

Type of Award	# of projects in this category	\$ Value of projects (\$000)	Targeted type of recipients	Award Selection Criteria (high-level bullets)
Contracts	66		Private companies	Methods available: open market competition; orders using completed Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity; completed GSA schedule orders and other. Criteria for evaluation will be based on statement of work, successful record of past performance, and indicated ability to meet cost schedule and schedule milestones.
Cooperative Agreements	9		States/NGOs	Criteria for evaluating proposals for award through cooperative agreements will be based on statement of work, successful record of past performance, and indicated ability to meet cost schedule and schedule milestones.
Section 638 Tribal Contracts	5		Tribes	Applications will be evaluated on the proposed statement of work, successful record of past performance, and indicated ability to meet cost and schedule milestones.

The types of financial awards need to be updated based state data call submissions

Performance Measures

Performance Measure #1

BLM has developed performance measures to monitor the impact of its Recovery Act investments on mission and programmatic goals and objectives. These performance measures can be found on Recovery.Gov.

Project Milestones and Completion

Types of Projects

Project	Description	# of Projects
Category A	Environmental (JK)	20
Category B	Physical Safety (HP)	41
Category C	Inventory (BH)	9
Category D	Other	10

Completion Rate

Quarter	# of Projects Completed (Category Environmental)	# of Projects Completed (Category Physical)	# of Projects Completed (Category Inventory)	# of Projects Completed (Category Other)	TOTAL # OF PROJECTS COMPLETED	Cumulative % of Projects Completed
FY 2009 Q2						
FY 2009 Q3	1	12			13	16%
FY 2009 Q4	5	11	1	3	20	41%
FY 2010 Q1				1	1	43%
FY 2010 Q2	7	6	3		16	63%
FY 2010 Q3						
FY 2010 Q4		2	3	3	8	73%
FY 2011 Q1	6	10	2	3	21	99%
FY 2011 Q2	1				1	100%
FY 2011 Q3						
FY 2011 Q4						
Total	20	41	9	10	80	

Key Milestones

Milestones	Average Length of Completion
Physical Hazard Mitigation	3-6 months
Environmental Mitigation	6-12 months

Savings/Costs Implications

The BLM AML program will avoid future operations and maintenance with the completion of these projects. Recovery Act will fund projects that were planned and will avoid costly emergency response and actions needed to address impacts related to health and safety issues that are not remediated. Examples include maintenance of security gates, ground or water monitoring, and maintenance of fences. The estimated O&M costs are based on existing AML program O&M costs of \$300,000 per year, and show the estimated increases for these projects.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Current Operational Costs	328	348	357	360	363
% Change (positive or negative)	9.3	11.6	11.9	12.0	12.1

Part VII: Construction

Program	Funding Amount	# of Projects Per Category
Construction		96

Program Manager

Janine Velasco, Assistant Director, Business and Fiscal Resources (202) 208-4864

Objectives

Visitor and employee health and safety will be better protected by committing the Recovery Act funds to construction and capital improvements. The construction funding will improve BLM buildings and structures by addressing critical health and safety improvements and creating future cost avoidance through energy efficiency. The BLM will improve recently identified health and safety needs in the BLM's building and structures. This funding will allow for the installation of energy efficient retrofits and, in many cases, energy generating technologies such as photovoltaic panels and wind turbines, reducing the energy cost of operating BLM facilities. The projects funded in this category include the addition of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) buildings and improve the sustainable features of all structures as called for under the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. A LEED certification standard for buildings is used to achieve the required sustainability and energy efficient standards for the Federal Government.

Activities

Construction improvements consisting of:

- Replacement of aging and deficient communication towers across the BLM public lands.
- Installation of public comfort stations in areas where none exist.
- Installation of security fencing.
- Construction of needed buildings and structures due to increased public visitation to BLM recreation sites.

Energy Efficient and Renewable Energy improvements, including:

- Installation of solar power units on buildings across the BLM.
- Installation of wind generated power units on buildings across the BLM.
- Installation of energy efficient systems and measures on buildings to decrease current energy costs.
- Repair or replace water systems with energy efficient systems.

Selection Criteria

Starting with the current 5-Year plan, the BLM solicited from each State Office a prioritized ranking of projects for each category with the expectation that the projects would create jobs and be accomplished within 18 months. A list of over 160 projects was identified for consideration with Recovery Act funding. This accounted for nearly \$80 million of Capital Improvement projects. From this list, the BLM selected 96 projects for completion with Recovery Act funding. All of the projects selected to receive Recovery Act funding are included in the 2010-2014 5-year Plan.

Characteristics (Types of Financial Awards to be Used)

Type of Award	# of projects in this category	\$ Value of projects	Award Selection Criteria (high-level bullets)
Contracts	96		Methods available: open market competition; orders using completed Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity; completed GSA schedule orders and other. Criteria for evaluation will be based on statement of work, successful record of past performance, and indicated ability to meet cost schedule and schedule milestones.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure # 1

BLM has developed performance measures to monitor the impact of its Recovery Act investments on mission and programmatic goals and objectives. These performance measures can be found on Recovery.Gov.

Performance Measure # 2

BLM has developed performance measures to monitor the impact of its Recovery Act investments on mission and programmatic goals and objectives. These performance measures can be found on Recovery.Gov.

Project Milestones and Completion

Project	Types of Projects Description	# of Projects
Recreation Sites IB	Recreation Sites Deferred Maintenance and Construction (Number of Projects) .Work includes: site upgrades to incorporate sustainable features at recreation sites	44
Administrative Sites IN	Administrative Site Deferred Maintenance and Construction (Number of Projects) Work to include: life safety improvements and repairs to buildings, communication sites and installation of energy efficient systems at administrative sites.	50
Large Construction Projects (Exceeding \$2M) IB or IN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-location facility of multiple BLM offices Kanab Utah. (\$5M) (IN) Black Rock National Conservation Area Administrative Facility in Gerlach Nevada.(\$2.3M) IB 	2

Completion Rate

Completion rates will be adjusted upon completion of the PDS and better estimates of actual milestone measures

Quarter	# of Projects Completed Admin Sites IB	# of Projects Completed Rec Sites IN	# of Projects Completed \$2 M above	TOTAL # OF PROJECTS COMPLETED	Cumulative % of Projects Completed
FY 2009 Q2	0	0	0	0	0%
FY 2009 Q3	0	0	0	0	0%
FY 2009 Q4	4	3	0	7	7%
FY 2010 Q1	6	6	0	12	20%
FY 2010 Q2	0	1	0	1	21%

Quarter	# of Projects Completed Admin Sites IB	# of Projects Completed Rec Sites IN	# of Projects Completed \$2 M above	TOTAL # OF PROJECTS COMPLETED	Cumulative % of Projects Completed
FY 2010 Q3	21	13	0	34	56%
FY 2010 Q4	0	0	0	0	56%
FY 2011 Q1	13	23	0	36	94%
FY 2011 Q2	0	0	0	0	94%
FY 2011 Q3	0	4	2	6	100%

The Milestones for the Building and Site projects will be collected upon the completion of the Project Data Sheets (PDS) for each project. The length of completion will be dependent on each individual project and vary widely. Project selection was dependent on 100 percent obligation of Recovery Act funds by October 1, 2010. Funding for the 42 projects, which will be completed after October 1, 2010 will have been obligated in full prior to October 1, 2010. Any unexpected additional expense associated with these projects will be completed with FY 2011 appropriated funds.

Projects

Key Milestones

Milestones	Average Length of Completion
Planning	-
Permitting	-
Design	2 months
Procurement	3 months
Construction Award/Start	1 month
Project Completion	12 month

*Assumes planning is completed for all Recovery Act projects and permitting is not normally required on Federal Buildings.

Savings/Costs Implications

Construction and Capital Improvements will decrease annual maintenance and operating costs. BLM has also planned for some disposals with Recovery Act funding to eliminate unsafe, underutilized, and inefficient buildings and structures. The estimated cost savings for the Recovery Act renewable energy deferred maintenance projects are expected to improve with the institution of sustainable measures. Electrical consumption at buildings and other structures will be reduced.

Part VIII: Abandoned Wells

Program	Funding Amount	# of Projects Per Category
Abandoned Wells – Alaska Legacy Wells		1 Project

Program Manager

Tom Lonnie, BLM Alaska State Director, (907) 271-5080

Objectives

The BLM has assessed the condition of abandoned Alaska wells previously used by the Federal Government and embarked on a program to plug them to reduce risks to the environment. The BLM has developed an abandoned well strategy and has actively pursued plugging 37 wells that pose a potential risk to the environment. Fourteen of these 37 wells have been plugged by the BLM since 2002. Some of these wells and associated facilities contain hydrocarbon based fluids and other contaminants which present an environmental risk from erosion to Alaska's marine and tundra habitat. Many of these wells were left unplugged or only partially plugged. BLM has funded the abandoned wells thus far through appropriated funds and emergency 102 transfers made necessary due to the imminence of the well contents leaking into the environment.

A Legacy Well Report, published in 2004, characterized and ranked the wells for plugging and remediation according to specific criteria. However, the criteria did not consider the release or discharge of contaminated reserve pit contents due to accelerated erosion, subsidence, and/or mass wasting of shoreline along the Beaufort Sea coastline. As a result of monitoring coastline erosion, the remaining wells have been re-prioritized for plugging and site remediation based on additional criteria, including; wells about to be overtaken by advancing coastal erosion; having potential to impact human health or natural resources; or having potential for negative effects on subsistence.

In early 2008, the BLM prepared a Strategic Plan to address and prioritize the Legacy Well work for over the next few years. The Strategic Plan identified Drew Point as the highest priority of the remaining legacy wells yet to be plugged and the site remediated. The BLM will fund the plugging and remediation of this well with Recovery Act funds. The public benefits are the elimination of the threat of release of contaminants to the environment.

Activities

The field work occurs in winter, optimally from February to early May, when the ground is frozen. Contractors will utilize existing ice roads and sea ice, and may need to build new ice roads to mobilize to well sites. Overland tundra travel may also be an alternative for mobilization or re-supply of materials. Activities will include:

- Establishing a remote camp.
- Constructing an ice air strip and mobilizing heavy equipment (dozers, loaders, tanks, fluid pumps, cement mixing and pumping equipment).
- Removing wellbore fluids and storing in tanks for recycling offsite.
- Plugging wellbores with cement.
- Removing reserve pit contents and properly disposing offsite. Any contamination on the well pads will be removed.
- Demobilizing heavy equipment and camp.

Selection Criteria

The well plugging and site remediation were prioritized based on:

- The threat of shoreline erosion
- Condition and contents of reserve pits and pads
- The potential for contamination of subsistence resources (bowhead whales, seals walrus and fish) or to T&E species (Polar Bears, Spectacled and Stellar Eiders)
- Wells that penetrated an oil or gas zone with potential to flow to surface
- Wells near human activity that may pose health risks
- Potential to create or support jobs.

Characteristics (Types of Financial Awards to be Used)

Type of Award	# of projects in this category	\$ Value of projects	Targeted type of recipients	Award Selection Criteria (high-level bullets)
Contracts	1		Well Service and Environmental Remediation Contractors	Small Businesses, Native Owned Businesses, Minority Owned Services providers

Performance Measures

Performance Measure # 1

BLM has developed performance measures to monitor the impact of its Recovery Act investments on mission and programmatic goals and objectives. These performance measures can be found on Recovery.Gov.

Project Milestones and Completion

Types of Projects

Description	# of Projects
Well plugging and site remediation	1

Completion Rate

Quarter	# of Projects Completed (Category X)	Total # of Projects Completed	Cumulative % of Projects Completed
FY 2010 Q3	1	1	100

Part IX: Roads and Bridges

Program	Funding Amount	# of Projects Per Category
Roads and Bridges		52

Program Manager

Janine Velasco, Assistant Director, Business and Fiscal Resources (202) 208-4864

Objectives

Road and Bridge projects, accomplished with Recovery Act funding, will improve BLM infrastructure and help provide safe transportation routes for the public and BLM personnel. All projects will address roads and bridges managed, maintained, and under the jurisdiction of BLM. This transportation network directly supports recreation opportunities, protects natural resources and provides access to resources for public use. Projects will address the BLM's deferred maintenance responsibilities and improve the current condition of the bureau's most deteriorated roads and bridges through the mitigation of outstanding health and safety issues.

Activities

Address critical health and safety issues consisting of:

- Road realignment and repair.
- Bridge replacement and repair.
- Culvert and road repair.
- Paving and chip seal of roads.

Selection Criteria

Road and Bridge projects, accomplished with Recovery Act funding, will improve BLM infrastructure and improve the safety of transportation routes for the public and BLM personnel. All projects will address roads and bridges managed, maintained, and under the jurisdiction of BLM. This transportation network directly supports recreation opportunities, protects natural resources and provides access to resources for public use. Projects will address BLM's deferred maintenance responsibilities and improve the current condition of the bureau's most deteriorated roads and bridges through the mitigation of outstanding health and safety issues.

Activities

Address critical health and safety issues consisting of:

- Road realignment and repair.
- Bridge replacement and repair.
- Culvert and road repair.
- Paving and chip seal of roads.

Selection Criteria

Road and Bridge projects that were previously included in the 5-Year Plan project list were identified to be completed under the Recovery Act funding for the Deferred Maintenance category. Additional projects, submitted by each BLM state office, were then examined based on their potential to improve the overall infrastructure of BLM transportation network. As mentioned previously, road projects are generally not funded through the annual 5-Year Plan because they rarely rank high enough to be considered for funding. Unlike other DOI agencies, the BLM does not receive direct Federal Highway Administration funding to support its transportation network. Hence many roads critical to local communities, are in a deteriorated. The Recovery Act calls for the improvement of the Nation’s infrastructure including roads, and this funding component is directed at these needs. The BLM selected 52 road and bridge projects for this category. This funding will address 10 percent of BLM’s most immediate needs for road and bridge repair. Projects were prioritized according to safety issues and support of local communities transportation needs. As in other categories, the projects must be initiated and completed within 18 months to ensure expedited job creation and economic stimulus.

Projects selected for road and bridge infrastructure improvements were prioritized according to:

- Critical health and safety issues.
- Whether the project can be initiated and completed within 18 months to ensure expedited job creation and economic stimulus.
- Support of local transportation networks.
- Potential to create or support jobs.

Characteristics (Types of Financial Awards to be Used)

Type of Award	# of projects in this category	\$ Value of projects	Targeted type of recipients	Award Selection Criteria (high-level bullets)
Contracts	52			Methods available: open market competition; orders using completed Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity; completed GSA schedule orders and other. Criteria for evaluation will be based on statement of work, successful record of past performance, and indicated ability to meet cost schedule and schedule milestones.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure # 1

BLM has developed performance measures to monitor the impact of its Recovery Act investments on mission and programmatic goals and objectives. These performance measures can be found on Recovery.Gov.

Performance Measure # 2

BLM has developed performance measures to monitor the impact of its Recovery Act investments on mission and programmatic goals and objectives. These performance measures can be found on Recovery.Gov.

Project Milestones and Completion

Types of Projects

Project	Description	# of Projects
Roads IQ	Road Deferred Maintenance and Construction (Number of Projects) Road repair of existing roads, culverts and parking areas to mitigate outstanding health and safety issues. Repair consists of road realignment, gravel replacement, paving and chip seal as required.	47
Bridges IH	Bridge Deferred Maintenance and Construction (Number of Projects) Bridge repair and replacement to correct outstanding critical health and safety issues.	4
Large Construction Projects (Exceeding \$2M)		1

Completion Rate

Completion rates will be adjusted upon completion of the PDS and better estimates of actual milestone measures

Quarter	# of Projects Completed Roads IQ	# of Projects Completed Bridges IH	# of Projects Completed \$2 M above	TOTAL # OF PROJECTS COMPLETED	Cumulative % of Projects Completed
FY 2009 Q2	0	0	0	0	0%
FY 2009 Q3	0	0	0	0	0%
FY 2009 Q4	5	0	0	5	10%
FY 2010 Q1	13	1	1	15	38%
FY 2010 Q2	0	0	0	0	38%
FY 2010 Q3	17	3	0	20	77%
FY 2010 Q4	0	0	0	0	77%
FY 2011 Q1	8	0	0	8	92%
FY 2011 Q2	0	0	0	0	92%
FY 2011 Q3	4	0	0	4	100%

Quarter	# of Projects Completed Roads IQ	# of Projects Completed Bridges IH	# of Projects Completed \$2 M above	TOTAL # OF PROJECTS COMPLETED	Cumulative % of Projects Completed
FY 2011 Q4	0	0	0	0	100%

The Milestones for the Building and Site projects will be collected upon the completion of the Project Data Sheets (PDS) for each project. The length of completion will be dependent on each individual project and vary widely. Project selection was dependent on 100 percent obligation of Recovery Act funds by October 1, 2010.

Projects

Key Milestones

Milestones	Average Length of Completion
Planning	-
Permitting	-
Design	2 months
Procurement	3 months
Construction Award/Start	1 month
Project Completion	12 month

*Assumes planning is completed for all Recovery Act projects and permitting is not normally required on Federal Buildings.

Mission/Cost Implications

Road and Bridge Improvements will decrease annual maintenance and operating costs by eliminating the need to complete smaller road projects to fix individual deficiencies and improve health and safety. Recovery Act funding will allow BLM to accelerate road and bridge repairs and address ten percent of the most important work needed. Completed repairs will improve road safety, public access, and support improved achievement of BLM's resource management mission.

Part X: Trails

Program	Funding Amount	# of Projects Per Category
Trails		80

Program Manager

Ed Roberson, Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning, (202) 208-4896

Objectives

Funding will be used to maintain, improve and enhance trails across BLM-managed public lands. It is BLM's long-term goal to establish a sustainable, multi-modal network of roads, primitive roads and trails that improve public access to BLM-managed lands for a wide range of recreation opportunities. Projects will also help ensure that trails are integrated with a transportation system that supports BLM's administrative and resource management access needs and that trails are managed to meet resource conservation and protection objectives. Funds will be used for trail planning, design, maintenance, management, and monitoring. Trail projects will support the Agency's mission, land use planning goals and objectives to provide for resource management, public and administrative access, and transportation needs.

Activities

- **Planning and Design**
 - Conduct trail and transportation inventory and mapping.
 - Conduct route or trail condition assessment and develop prescriptions.
 - Conduct Visual Resource Management analysis or landscape level trail related assessments.
 - Conduct trail related engineering, design or cultural clearances if needed.
- **Maintenance and Management**
 - Provide visitor and trail user information including installation of trail marking and signing.
 - Install signing or provide information to identify public use areas and trails;
 - Perform trail or route construction, maintenance, repair, restoration, stabilization, rehabilitation.
 - Conduct trail monitoring for compliance and meeting management objectives
- **Enhancements**
 - Provide health and safety improvements or rectify problems.
 - Provide trailhead-related access facilities such as parking, restrooms and staging areas.
 - Provide information and interpretation for trails.
 - Implement accessibility improvements for people with disabilities.

Selection Criteria

The existing process for the prioritization and selection of trail projects is described in Part II. the Recovery Act project selection began at the State level where previously identified projects were evaluated to determine if they could be accomplished in 18 months, had completed or minimal NEPA requirements, and would not have complicated procurements. Many of the BLM state offices identified projects with additional benefits such as:

- Opportunity to employ or engage youth (ages 16-25) in conservation or stewardship activities. Based on Section 702 of the Recovery Act.
- Support of management objectives for a National Landscape Conservation System component including National Conservation Area, National Monument, National Scenic, Historic or Recreation Trail, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Wilderness or Wilderness Study Area, etc).
- Located in high priority areas or high use areas with at-risk resources such as designated special areas or treasured landscapes with high values for habitat, cultural, soils, recreation.
- Potential to create or support jobs.

Characteristics (Types of Financial Awards to be Used)

Type of Award	# of projects in this category*	\$ Value of projects**	Targeted type of recipients	Award Selection Criteria (high-level bullets)
In-House Activity	4		Seasonal Employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to employ or engage youth in project completion • Demonstrated capability and capacity to complete project • Demonstrated expertise and technical skills to complete project
Contracts	28		Trail Contractors, Youth Corps (SCA, AmeriCorp, etc)	
Grants	23		Non-profit Organizations, Partnerships	
Cooperative Agreements	25		Universities, Partnerships, Interagency Government Organizations (IGOs)	

** Estimated project values may vary as projects could chose alternative methods to award funds.

Performance Measures

Performance Measure # 1

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Performance Measure # 2

BLM has developed performance measures to monitor the impact of its Recovery Act investments on mission and programmatic goals and objectives. These performance measures can be found on Recovery.Gov.

Project Milestones and Completion

Types of Projects

Project	Description	# of Projects
Trails IE	Trails Deferred Maintenance and Construction (Number of Projects) Projects range from \$6,000 to \$1,000,000 and include work on trails or trails related support facilities such as trail heads, parking areas, informational signs and materials. Trail projects also include pre-implementation or construction or maintenance work such as activities associated with planning, mapping, condition assessments and design as well as post-implementation activities such as monitoring and management activities (public information materials, sign installation etc...).	80
Large Construction Projects (Exceeding \$2M)	None	

Completion Rate*

Quarter	# of Projects Completed Trails	TOTAL # OF PROJECTS COMPLETED	Cumulative % of Projects Completed
FY 2009 Q2	0	0	0%
FY 2009 Q3	0	0	0%
FY 2009 Q4	10	10	13%
FY 2010 Q1	0	0	13%
FY 2010 Q2	18	18	35%
FY 2010 Q3	0	0	35%
FY 2010 Q4	40	40	85%
FY 2011 Q1	0	0	85%
FY 2011 Q2	0	0	85%

Quarter	# of Projects Completed Trails	TOTAL # OF PROJECTS COMPLETED	Cumulative % of Projects Completed
FY 2011 Q3	0	0	85%
FY 2011 Q4	12	12	100%

*Note - Estimated project completion as data provided ranged from 6 to 18+ months completion time frames depending on size and scope of projects. The Milestones for the Trail projects will be collected upon the completion of the Project Data Sheets (PDS) for each project. The length of completion will be dependent on each individual project and vary widely. Project selection was dependent on 100 percent obligation of Recovery Act funds by 1 Oct 2010. The projects projected for continued construction past 1 Oct 2010 will be mitigated through maximized obligation prior to 1 Oct 2010 and the use of base funding to provide for project management and closeout expenses.

Mission/Cost Implications

Recovery Act funding will allow BLM to accelerate planned trail work and thereby achieve benefits to the public sooner. The estimated savings and costs for the Recovery Act trails maintenance and construction projects are difficult to estimate until the completion of the individual Project Design Sheets for the Recovery Act projects and, in many cases, the completion of the project. It is expected that the maintenance activities taken on trail-related infrastructure will decrease current annual maintenance costs. It is expected that the new trails will, in some cases, increase O&M expenses, but other maintenance activities will mitigate critical health and safety issues in the process. New or improved facilities and infrastructure increases asset liability and will require additional annual operations and maintenance funds for on-going care and upkeep of new infrastructure.

Part XI: Recovery Act Funds Impact on 5-Year Plan

Construction

The Recovery Act funds will accelerate the completion of projects on the BLM's Deferred Maintenance/Capital Improvement 5-Year Plan. This funding will mean projects ranked lower in the 5-Year Planning process will be completed earlier than anticipated through annual federal program appropriations. The Recovery Act will allow for the construction of 96 projects. Over 70 percent of these projects will have a renewable energy component, such as solar power and wind turbine installation, or will be energy efficient in nature.

BLM Portion of the Recovery Act Construction Projects Selected from 5-Year Priority Lists

5-Year Recovery Act Plan for Construction Projects					
Number of Projects Selected for Recovery Act Funding	\$ Value of Projects Selected for Funding	Number of Projects Not Selected for Funding	\$ Value of Projects Remaining	Total Number of Projects in Plan	Total \$ Value of Projects on Plan
96		60		156	

The BLM is addressing a substantial portion of construction projects that were not included in the previous 5-Year Plan. From the 5-Year Plan the BLM selected 96 projects. The selected projects meet the unique Recovery Act requirements and most importantly were vetted to ensure the projects can achieve obligations by October 1, 2010.

The remainder of projects considered for the Recovery Act, were included in a revised 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan for FY2010-2014.

Deferred Maintenance

As in the Construction program, the Recovery Act funds will accelerate the completion of projects on the BLM's Deferred Maintenance/Capital Improvement 5-Year Plan. This funding will mean projects ranked lower in the 5-Year Plan will move up the priority list and be completed earlier than anticipated using traditional program appropriations. The Recovery Act will allow for the construction of 142 projects. About 30 percent of these projects will have a renewable energy component or will be energy efficient in nature.

BLM Portion of the Recovery Act Deferred Maintenance Projects Selected from 5-Year Priority Lists

5-Year Recovery Act Plan for Deferred Maintenance Projects					
Number of Projects Selected for Recovery Act Funding	\$ Value of Projects Selected for Funding	Number of Projects Not Selected for Funding	\$ Value of Projects Remaining	Total Number of Projects in Plan	Total \$ Value of Projects on Plan
142		365		507	

From the 5-Year Deferred Maintenance Plan the BLM selected 142 projects. The selected projects meet the unique Recovery Act requirements and most importantly were vetted to ensure the projects can achieve obligations by October 1, 2010.

Projects not considered for Recovery Act funding, are included in the 5-Year Deferred Maintenance Plan for FY 2010-2014 and will be funded through regular appropriations.

Part XII: Cross Cutting Initiatives

Within each category of projects the BLM used ranking factors, such as improving health and safety in construction and deferred maintenance projects, or addressing energy independence in selecting renewable energy projects. Whenever possible, the BLM emphasized projects that contained as many priorities as possible. Three crosscutting areas were emphasized: renewable energy, protecting national treasures and projects that engaged youth. Wherever possible, BLM selected projects that had a renewable energy component, or were within areas with special management needs, such as units of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS); benefited endangered species habitat; or were in other special management areas (such as a Special Recreation Management Area). If the project involved youth then additional emphasis was placed on that project. Finally, although not ranked as high as the previous factors, projects that involved partners were also ranked higher than projects without partnerships.

Whether the primary objective of the treatment is habitat restoration, forest health restoration, or hazardous fuels treatments, the utilization of the by-product is often a secondary objective. The utilization of biomass for renewable energy will help offset needs for other fossil fuel usage and provide greater short and long-term impacts for job creation. Many of the projects will provide employment for youth, enhance habitat for sensitive species, and are accomplished through partnerships.

Projects that Engage Youth

Project Category	Description	# of Projects
Habitat Restoration	Inventory, guzzler maintenance, wildlife monitoring, brush removal.	79
Trail Maintenance and Construction	Installing signs, clearing trails, monitoring use.	50
Other Projects	Install bat gates at AML sites	4

Projects that Include Biomass Component

The BLM will track biomass production from Habitat Restoration projects that have the potential, such as forest health and fuel reduction activities.

Part XIII: Administrative Costs

Overview

The Recovery Act Conference Report (House Report 111-16, page 447) provides the following guidance regarding administrative and support costs associated with executing the resources appropriated through Title VII (Interior, Environment and Related Agencies):

Administrative and support costs: The Conferees have agreed that, except where otherwise provided in the bill or this accompanying statement, amounts for administrative and support costs associated with the implementation of title VII activities of this Act shall not exceed five percent of any specific appropriation. The conferees note that this amount is a cap and encourage agencies to balance carefully the goal of proper management and fiscal prudence when setting funding levels for administrative support. In staffing up to handle the increased, but temporary, workloads associated with funding provided in the bill, it is important that the agencies limit the permanent expansion of their workforces and utilize temporary, term or contract personnel as much as possible.

BLM Reservation of Funds for Administrative Costs

The following tables show the BLM’s reservation of funds for administrative costs at two levels, the Treasury Account Fund Symbol (TAFS) and the budget subactivity.

Reserved Administrative Costs by TAFS

TAFS	TAFS Name	Appropriated Amount	Reserved for Projects	% Reserved for Projects	Reserved for Admin. Costs	% Reserved for Admin. Costs
1409/101108	Recovery and Reinvestment Act - MLR	\$125,000,000	\$118,750,000	95%	\$6,250,000	5%
1409/101112	Recovery and Reinvestment Act - Construction	\$180,000,000	\$171,000,000	95%	\$9,000,000	5%

Amounts reserved for administrative costs are “not to exceed” amounts that will be strictly controlled. These funds will be allocated to various BLM organizations for uses described in the “Appropriate Administrative and Support Costs” section below. Included in the administrative cost estimates contained in the table above, are amounts to cover the BLM’s share of DOI administrative costs associated with administration of the Recovery Act. Should funds be identified that were reserved for administrative costs, but turn out to be unneeded for that purpose, the administrative subactivity will be reduced and the funds will be added to other

Recovery Act direct subactivities and used to cover cost overruns or to fund additional Recovery Act projects.

Appropriate Administrative and Support Costs

A workgroup led by DOI officials has developed guidance, limits, and procedures for funding the administrative and support costs associated with implementing the Recovery Act. In concert with that guidance, the BLM has also issued guidance on the authorized uses of Recovery Act administrative funds. In general, administrative and support costs are indirect costs. The BLM defines an indirect cost as one that cannot be attributable specifically to a project/work activity/product. However, the BLM defines its work activities (program elements) in a way that directs as much work (and dollars) as reasonably possible to direct cost categories. That philosophy will remain in effect. For example, a contracting officer working on a contract to support an approved Recovery Act project will charge his or her time directly to the project and the direct Recovery Act subactivity funding it, not to the Recovery Act “administrative cost” subactivity. In addition, the BLM has configured its systems to accept only administrative costs with appropriate subactivities. BLM’s policy guidance on the use of the direct project funding and the administrative and support costs associated with the Recovery Act includes:

- ***Recovery Act Projects:*** Projects funded under the Recovery Act are responsible for funding all direct costs associated with the project. Direct costs are not limited to, but should include: project management or Contracting Officer’s Representative (COR) responsibility; requisitioning and procurement support; direct hiring support; individual project tracking and reporting; planning and design work; National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance and permitting consultation; wages for direct project work including term or seasonal workers; and the implementation, remediation and treatment contracts.
- ***Administrative and Support Costs:*** Charges for the 5 percent administrative and support costs associated with the Recovery Act are limited to the support the Recovery Act that is not attributed to a single project. This would include oversight, risk management, public outreach and reporting requirements. The administrative and support costs should include costs for the overall management of the stimulus program and efforts to meet the reporting requirements at each level of the organization. The Recovery Act administrative funds can support salary of existing BLM persons or contractual, term, or temporary new hires.
- ***Fund Allocations:*** Specific allocations will be made to the Washington Office (WO), National Operations Center (NOC), and State Offices to support these efforts. Positions (no new permanent positions may be hired) listed may be funded by position or the equivalent FTE and serve as the basis for allocating the Recovery Act Administrative funds. WO administrative and support costs should include reimbursements of the Department through the Working Capital Fund for activities related directly to the Recovery Act and for national Recovery Act oversight. The BLM state offices will also use limited funds for oversight and program management. The NOC will use some of the

funds for management of the procurement and finance processes, as well as other bureau-wide operational support needs.

Management Controls Established for Administrative and Support Costs

The controls identified herein illustrate how BLM management will provide reasonable assurance the BLM is in compliance with the requirements, as well as the objectives of the Recovery Act administrative and support cost funding authorized for Title VII (Interior, Environment and Related Agencies) of the Recovery Act. The BLM risk management strategy addresses both Recovery Act accountability objectives and BLM specific risks and ensures through review and appropriate testing that internal controls are in place and working to ensure that the goals of the Recovery Act are met. The following table identifies the most serious BLM risks associated with Recovery Act administrative funds and identifies the controls that have been put in place to mitigate those risks.

Risk	Control(s)	Review/Assurance
Recovery Act administrative costs are limited to 5 percent of appropriated amounts for Recovery Act-MLR and Recovery Act-Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0. BLM has established “hard stops in its accounting system at the appropriation and allotment levels, i.e., transactions that exceed reserved amounts will reject. 0. BLM has established program element (work breakdown structures)/subactivity controls. 0. Administrative funds will be allocated to BLM organizations in annual increments, i.e., fiscal year 2009 and a separate allocation for 2010. 	<p>Obligations and expenditures associated with subactivities RAD1 and RAD3 will be monitored regularly and reported to the CFO.</p> <p>Any organization exceeding their funding allocation will be reported to the CFO for appropriate action.</p>
Funds must be used for intended purposes as prescribed by the Recovery Act, DOI policy, and BLM policy.	The Bureau Deputy Director, NOC Director, and State Directors or their designee are required to review Recovery Act administrative costs quarterly to assure intents and purposes are being met. Inappropriate costs must be adjusted.	The Bureau Deputy Director, NOC Director, and State Directors are required to provide a written certification through their annual assurance statements that Recovery Act funds have been used appropriately.

Part XIV: Barriers to Implementation

Impact of Wildland Fires on BLM's Recovery Act Efforts

Managing wildfires across the West is an important part of the BLM's mission. During severe fire seasons, the BLM often experiences impacts to planned work as a large number of employees could be sent to assist in firefighting activities. For example, providing logistical support for fire fighters throughout the fire season requires many warranted acquisition and procurement personnel. To address this issue, the BLM has developed a plan to fulfill all of the BLM's normal procurement needs, including wildland fire fighting and other normal planned workload requirements. This plan includes increasing warrant authority levels to appropriately trained and qualified procurement personnel and building procurement support through contractors and new hires.

The execution of this plan is intended to ensure that the BLM is able to support our wildland fire workload responsibilities. However, it is possible that the wildfire season could impact the accomplishment of program goals. In this case, the BLM will strive first to accomplish the Recovery Act contracts and procurements to maintain those jobs. Regularly planned work will continue after fire severity is reduced or Recovery Act project procurements are completed. It is also possible that Recovery Act planned projects could be impacted by the wildfire season prior to the projects' completion. This is especially true of habitat restoration projects. Wildfire in a project area will preclude planned work. To the extent practicable, contracts will allow flexibility to keep crews working on other projects in the event that a project area is burned by wildfire.

The BLM is working to ensure the greatest likelihood of success for the Recovery Act projects as well as our regularly scheduled work on the public lands.