



# 2009 REPORT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

JANUARY 2010



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*Photos Courtesy of Tami A. Heilemann (DOI), USFWS, BOR, NPS, USGS and BLM*



*Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, Colorado*

## LETTER FROM SECRETARY SALAZAR

When President Barack Obama asked me to become his Secretary of the Interior, he asked me to change how the Department does business and help restore the trust of the American people in their government.

The Department of the Interior's programs and resources are vital to the health of the U.S. economy, our identity as a people, and to President Obama's vision for a clean energy future. We are the custodians of America's natural landscapes, history, and culture. We manage one-fifth of the Nation's landmass, vast resources off our coasts, and the energy and mineral estate that belongs to the American people. And we have a solemn obligation to uphold the Federal Government's responsibilities to Indian nations and advocate for America's island communities.

To help restore the trust of the American people in the proud work we do at Interior, we are restoring ethics, transparency, and the role of science in decision-making. These values guide the policy reforms I have begun to implement in five priority areas in the first year. These priorities, which are consistent with President Obama's promise of delivering change, are:

- Creating a comprehensive energy plan that creates jobs, reduces our dependence on foreign oil and protects our children from the dangers of climate change;
- Developing a 21<sup>st</sup> Century conservation agenda that protects America's Great Outdoors and treasured places;
- Honoring our trust responsibilities to American Indians and Alaska Natives and serving our island communities;
- Engaging America's youth; and
- Tackling the water challenges facing our Country.

In 2009, we made great progress in each of these areas and have begun to change how Interior does business. For example, we:

- Established new ethics standards and policies;
- Reviewed and changed prior actions harmful to the public interest;
- Prioritized the rapid, responsible development of renewable energy on public lands and oceans;
- Created an action plan to help address the realities of climate change;
- Renewed commitments and initiated new efforts to protect and restore our treasured natural, cultural and historic landscapes; and
- Promoted a new, respectful relationship with the nation's First Americans.

This report summarizes these actions and others we took in 2009 to bring about the change that President Obama promised for our Country.



Our work together has only begun, however. With the right policies and right investments, we can do even more to power America's economic recovery, create jobs here at home, and preserve, protect and restore the natural, cultural and historical resources that set our Country apart.

Reaching these goals will require hard work, courage, and commitment to the values that must guide the stewardship of America's resources. "We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors," says a familiar Native American proverb, "we borrow it from our children."

May the lessons of our ancestors inspire us to build a new future for ourselves and our planet. For as President Obama said as he was sworn into office: "the world has changed, and we must change with it." That is the promise he made. That is the promise we will keep.

Sincerely,

Ken Salazar

# GREAT OUTDOORS AMERICA—A 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY TREASURED LANDSCAPES AGENDA

President Obama and Secretary Salazar have a bold agenda for protecting America’s open spaces, treasured landscapes, wildlife, and the historic and cultural sites that tell our nation’s story.

## PROTECTING, PROMOTING, AND RESTORING AMERICA’S TREASURED NATURAL LANDSCAPES

### Passage of Historic Great Outdoors America-Treasured Landscapes Legislative Package

Laying the foundation for his Administration’s commitment to promoting a Great Outdoors America agenda, President Obama in March signed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11), the most extensive expansion of land and water conservation in more than a generation. Most of those lands will fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior. The President and Secretary actively supported early passage of the legislation by the Congress in 2009. The bill’s enactment was a major early landmark achievement of the Administration. The Act:



*President Obama and Secretary Salazar at Yellowstone NP*

- **Designated more than 2 million acres of new wilderness**, nearly as much as the previous Administration designated in eight years. The designations span nine states and include Rocky Mountain National Park and Dominguez Canyon (CO); Monongahela (WV); Virginia Ridge and Valley (VA); Soda Mountain, Oregon Badlands, Spring Basin, Mt. Hood, and Copper Salmon (OR); Owyhee County (ID); Sabinoso (NM); Eastern Sierra and Northern San Gabriel, Riverside County, Sequoia-Kings Canyon (CA); Zion/Washington County (UT); and Pictured Rocks (MI).
- **Added more than 1,100 miles of rivers to the National Wild and Scenic River System** in seven states (Oregon, Idaho, California, Utah, Arizona, Wyoming, and Massachusetts). The rivers include 387 miles on the Snake River in Wyoming, and 40 miles on the Taunton River in Massachusetts. Wild and Scenic Rivers designations preserve free-flowing rivers that possess outstanding environmental, scenic, and recreational features.
- **Authorized three new national park units**—Paterson Great Falls in New Jersey, William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace in Arkansas, and River Raisin Battlefield in Michigan.
- **Created one new national monument**, the Prehistoric Trackways National Monument in New Mexico to protect the world’s most significant Early Permian tracksites, which animals



predating dinosaurs about 280 million years ago. National Monument designation gives protections to important areas that contain historical and pre-historical interests.

- **Designated four new national conservation areas**, encompassing more than 330,000 acres. These include the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area (CO); Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave (NM); and Red Cliffs and Beaver Dam Wash National Conservation Areas (UT). National conservation areas provide important protections from development and improve recreational opportunities for all Americans.



*Secretary Salazar at the new Dominguez-Escalante NCA in Colorado*

- **Designated two new national recreation areas**, encompassing more than 41,800 acres, including Mount Hood Recreation Area (OR) and Bridgeport Winter Recreation Area (CA).
- **Created new national trails, adding more than 2,800 miles to the National Trails System:** the Arizona National Scenic Trail, the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail (WA), the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail, the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail, and the New England National Scenic Trail. Additionally, we expanded the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail to include new trail segments and other components. The National Trails System preserves public access to hiking trails for the enjoyment and economic benefit of all.
- **Enlarged or authorized enlargement of the boundaries of more than a dozen existing national park units**, including Little River Canyon National Preserve (AL); Hopewell Culture National Historical Park (OH); Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve (LA); Minute Man National Historical Park (MA); Everglades National Park (FL); Kalaupapa National Historical Park (HI); Thomas Edison National Historical Park (NJ); Martin Van Buren National Historic Site (NY); Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park and Fort Davis National Historical Site (TX).
- **Established 10 new national heritage areas:** Sangre de Cristo, Cache La Poudre River, South Park (CO); Northern Plains (ND); Baltimore (MD); Freedom's Way (MA and NH); Mississippi Hills and Mississippi Delta (MS); Muscle Shoals (AL); and Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm (AK).
- **Established the 26-million acre National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) within the Bureau of Land Management**, codifying Interior's administrative creation of the system.
- **Authorized three major water settlements** that address the nation's obligations to Native Americans: the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement (CA), the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley Reservation Water Rights Settlement (NV), and the Northwestern New Mexico Rural Projects and Settlement under which 80,000 members of the Navajo Nation will ultimately have clean running water for the first time in their lives.

- **Launched efforts to improve the scientific understanding of critical water resources,** including the impact of climate change on water.

### **Restoring Our Landscapes and Creating Jobs through the Economic Recovery Act**

Through President Obama’s American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Interior is investing more than \$1 billion to conserve America’s timeless treasures—our stunning natural landscapes, our monuments to liberty, the icons of our culture and heritage—while helping working families and communities prosper again. Interior’s investments include an historic \$750 million for our National Park System to help preserve and protect national icons and historic landscapes, improve energy efficiency and renewable energy use at park units throughout the nation, improve roads for more than 275 million visitors, remediate abandoned mine sites on park units, and provide historic



*Tangle Lakes, Denali Highway, Alaska*

preservation funding to protect and restore buildings at historically black colleges. Interior has targeted more than 750 projects at some of the nation’s most recognizable monuments and landmarks to receive stimulus funds.

In addition, the Bureau of Land Management is investing \$305 million to restore landscapes, clean up abandoned mines, protect wildlife habitat, reduce the risk of wildfire, and expand its capacity to authorize renewable energy development on public lands.

### **Investing in America’s Land and Water Conservation Fund**

President Obama’s 2010 budget protects open spaces, forests and wildlife habitat by providing \$450 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for key conservation and land acquisition programs in the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior. This is a 48 percent increase over the 2009 level and put the Administration on track to reach a fully-funded \$900 million in LWCF funding.

### **Designating New National Trails**

Secretary Salazar designated 23 trails in 13 states as newly recognized National Recreation Trails, adding more than 525 miles of trails to the National Trails System. The new trails include Hugh S. Branyon Backcountry Trail (AL); San Jose Trail Network (CA); Morain Hills Trail System (IL); Pioneer Nature Trail (KS); Pittsburgh to Harrisburg Main Line Canal Greenways (PA); Historic Champlain Canalway Trail and Walkway Over the Hudson Project (NY); Cameron Park Trails (TX); and Occoquan Water Trail (VA).

### **Developing a New Water Flow Protocol for Grand Canyon National Park**

In December, Secretary Salazar announced the development of a science-based protocol to provide for additional experimental high-flow releases from Glen Canyon Dam down the Colorado River

through Grand Canyon National Park. The purpose of the experimental flows is to seek better protection of the natural resources and ecosystem of the park without affecting overall amounts of water owed to area water users.

### **Renewing the Federal Commitment to the Everglades**

Secretary Salazar has helped fulfill the Obama Administration's strong commitment to restoring and preserving the Everglades ecosystem. The actions taken include:

- In its first year, the Obama Administration provided more leadership and funding to move the Everglades restoration from planning to construction of critical projects than the previous administration. The \$600 million provided by the Administration for FY 2009 and commitment to be a full partner in the largest landscape level restoration anywhere and puts the project back on track.

- Secretary Salazar took steps to reverse the previous Administration's decision to remove Everglades National Park from the United Nation's List of World Heritage Sites in Danger. The UN list focuses the attention and resources of the international community on protecting internationally significant areas, such as the Everglades.



*Little Blue Heron, Everglades National Park*

- In December, after 20-years of debate and planning, Secretary Salazar joined officials from the Army Corps of Engineers, State of Florida and the regional water district in breaking ground for construction of a one-mile bridge adjacent to the northern boundary of the Everglades National Park on the Tamiami Trail. The bridge is a key component of ongoing efforts to revive the Everglades. It is the largest construction project in the history of the National Park Service and is critical to restoring fresh water flows to Everglades National Park and the South Florida ecosystem.
- Secretary Salazar made eliminating the Burmese pythons and other non-native constrictor snakes from the Everglades a priority and expanded existing Interior programs to combat these species.

### **Renewing the Federal Commitment to California's Bay Delta**

Secretary Salazar has led the Obama Administration's renewed commitment to restore the California Bay Delta, which is the largest estuary on the West Coast. The Bay Delta is critically important to hundreds of species of fish and wildlife and to millions of Californians who rely on it for their water supply. In spite of this, the previous administration abandoned pursuit of a balanced policy that included on-going investments in both water supply and ecological restoration projects.

The Interior Department entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Council on Environmental Quality and four other key federal agencies in September and then launched a coordinated Federal Action Plan in December to address both short-term and long-term needs of the Bay Delta.



*The First Family at Yellowstone National Park*

### **Protecting Yellowstone National Park**

The National Park Service began efforts to establish an interim rule to manage snowmobile and snowcoach access at Yellowstone for the next two years while it crafts a long-term winter use plan for the park. The Service is using the best science available to protect Yellowstone's natural resources and wildlife while still allowing a robust winter recreational experience for off-road vehicle enthusiasts and local businesses. The interim rule would allow up to 318 snowmobiles in the park each day for the next two winters, replacing the 2004 rule currently in effect by court order

that allowed up to 720 snowmobiles per day.

### **Protecting Grand Canyon National Park**

Secretary Salazar withdrew 1 million acres of federal lands from mining activity in the Arizona Strip abutting Grand Canyon National Park for two years. This will enable the Department to evaluate whether to withdraw the lands from new, primarily uranium, mining claims for an additional 20 years because of the need to protect the park, tribal lands, and cultural resources.

### **Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay**

In May, President Obama issued an Executive Order declaring the Chesapeake Bay a national treasure and committed the federal government to a robust cleanup effort through a coordinated effort between federal agencies. This was the first ever presidential directive on the bay and President Obama's first environmental Executive Order. Interior and fellow agencies announced their draft strategy for public comment in November to accelerate cleanup efforts and track progress. They committed to achieving milestones every two years, with a goal of having the measures they need to restore the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed in place by no later than 2025.

### **Protecting and Restoring the Great Lakes**

The Department of the Interior is a key participant in the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative that President Obama created in October 2009. This initiative calls for the Great Lakes states to prepare a plan of action in cooperation with 16 federal agencies. The U.S. Geological Survey recently completed a Great Lakes pilot study for a National Assessment of Water Availability and Use. This provides the region's water managers with up-to-date information for implementing the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Compact. It also will help form the basis for decisions on future water withdrawals in the region.

### **Providing Funding to Restore Abandoned Coal Mines**

The Office of Surface Mining made \$369 million available to 28 eligible coal-producing states and tribes through to restore abandoned coal mines, an increase of more than \$70 million from 2008. In announcing the funds, Secretary Salazar noted that these grants consistently provide thousands of well-paying jobs in America's economically depressed coal mining areas.

### **Reconsidering the Prior Administration's Decision to Offer Oil and Gas Leases on the Doorstep of Utah's National Parks**



*Wilson Arch, near Moab, Utah*

In February, Secretary Salazar directed the Bureau of Land Management to withdraw and reconsider for leasing 77 oil and gas lease parcels near Dinosaur National Monument and Arches and Canyonlands National Parks in Utah. He withdrew the parcels, which the previous Administration had issued in its final weeks in office, to better determine where oil and gas development is appropriate on public lands in the area. A federal court had halted the leases, citing fundamental flaws in the Department's compliance with legal processes.

The resulting interdisciplinary review, itself a new approach Secretary Salazar directed Interior to undertake, recommended leasing of 17 parcels, withdrawal of 8, and deferral of 52 others. Importantly, the report recommended changes in BLM's oil and gas leasing program to not only better protect treasured landscapes and the environment but also better manage oil and gas development on public lands.

### **Creating Mountaintop Mining Rules to Better Protect Streams**

The Obama Administration developed a multi-pronged interagency plan via a Memorandum of Understanding marking significant policy shifts on mountaintop mining. The memorandum provides for continued mining of this important conventional energy source but also strengthens oversight and regulation and minimizes adverse environmental consequences of mountaintop coal mining. The agreement establishes several short and long-term actions regulatory agencies will take to will improve coordination and reduce water impacts resulting from mountaintop mining.

The Department subsequently initiated an administrative rulemaking to create a comprehensive new stream buffer zone rule. This would replace the previous Administration's 2008 rule which relaxed protections of streams. Meanwhile, Interior strengthened oversight of state surface coal mining programs while the new rule is developed.

### **Withdrawing the Western Oregon Plan Revisions and Moving Toward a New Long-Term Forest Management Strategy**

In July, Secretary Salazar withdrew a legally indefensible plan to intensify logging in western Oregon (the Western Oregon Plan Revisions), which the previous Administration finalized in December, 2008, just weeks before leaving office. Interior is moving forward with timber sales that can be offered in the short-term while the agency takes a fresh look at long-term forest management strategies.

### **Restoring the Klamath River Basin**

The Department of the Interior is the lead agency in negotiating a community-led and supported plan to end decades of conflict and restore the Klamath River Basin in Oregon and California. In June, Secretary Salazar set a September deadline for reaching a draft agreement to encourage agreement among the 26 diverse stakeholders. The stakeholders reached an historic agreement to



*Upper Klamath National Wildlife Refuge, California*

evaluate and potentially undertake the largest river restoration in American history. This agreement entails the possible decommissioning and removal of four privately-owned hydropower dams on the Klamath River, habitat restoration throughout the basin, and establishment of a sustainable allocation of water for communities, agriculture, fish, and refuges. Final approval of both agreements will be finalized in early 2010. The Secretary will then undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the costs and benefits of removing the dams before giving final approval.

### **Purchasing Critical Inholdings**

The Department joined the U.S. Department of Agriculture in purchasing 5,026 acres of high value conservation land in Colorado, Montana and Nevada. The largest parcel is 4,573 acres within the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument in Colorado. The acquisitions are authorized under the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act of 2000. The act established a special land conservation fund to purchase private inholdings in western states from willing sellers whose acreage is surrounded by or next to lands managed by Interior agencies or the U.S. Forest Service. Such purchases receive funding from already completed federal land sales.

### **Approving New Funds for Nevada and Lake Tahoe Conservation and Restoration Projects**

In September, Secretary Salazar, BLM Director Bob Abbey and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid announced approval of more than \$135 million for a variety of landscape protection, restoration and improvement projects in the Lake Tahoe area and throughout Nevada under the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act. The funds come from revenue generated by the sale of public lands identified for disposal in the Las Vegas Valley by the Act.



*Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon  
Emigrant Trails National Conservation  
Area, Nevada*

## PROMOTING, PROTECTING AND RESTORING AMERICA'S TREASURED CULTURAL AND HISTORIC LANDSCAPES

### Re-Opening the Statue of Liberty's Crown

In one of his first official acts, Secretary Salazar ordered the opening to the public of the Statue of Liberty's Crown by July 4, 2009, with appropriate safety and security limits. On July 4, 2009, the National Park Service re-opened the crown and initiated a long-term renovation and restoration program for Lady Liberty and nearby Ellis Island.



*January 23, 2009: Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar at the Statue of Liberty*

### Moving Forward on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial

After 11 years of dispute, Secretary Salazar announced resolution of issues preventing issuance of the national parks permit allowing construction of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial on the National Mall. Secretary Salazar signed the construction permit on October 29, 2009.



*Secretary Salazar with Park Ranger Keith Newlin at the citizen-created memorial at the site of the crash of United Flight 93 on September 11, 2001*

### Finding Consensus to Move Forward on the Flight 93 National Memorial

Secretary Salazar helped broker agreements on land acquisition for the memorial, resolving disputes that threatened to derail creation of the memorial honoring the heroes of the 9/11/01 terrorist attack on Flight 93 near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Those efforts resulted in groundbreaking for the memorial on November 7, 2009.

### **Celebrating the American Revolution**

In another resolution of a longstanding dispute, the Department successfully reached agreement to develop a national museum, the American Revolution Center, at Independence National Park in downtown Philadelphia. In exchange for locating the center at this site, the National Park Service will receive a 78-acre parcel of private land that the center owns within the boundary of another Revolutionary War treasure, Valley Forge National Historical Park.

### **Remembering a World War II Tragedy at Port Chicago**

President Obama signed legislation to create the nation's 392<sup>nd</sup> national park, the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial in Concord, California. The park commemorates the place of the greatest loss of life on the home front during World War II – 320 men died and almost 400 others were injured in an explosion as ships were being loaded with munitions. Of the 320 men killed, 202 were African American.

### **Telling America's Story—National Museum of the American Latino Commission**

The Obama Administration convened the 23-member National Museum of the American Latino Commission, filling positions that had been vacant under the previous administration. The commission will study over a two-year period the feasibility of and plan for a new national museum in the nation's capital to portray the art, history, and culture of the Latino population of the United States. The law gave the Department of Interior, supervisory and budgetary authority over the commission. Secretary Salazar assembled a full-time staff dedicated to supporting the work of the commission, convened three commission meetings in the first four months of its full existence and encouraged the commissioners to complete their study within one year, half the time the statute provided. The commission's goal is to complete its study by September 2010.

### **Awarding Grants for Historic Preservation**

The National Park Service awarded \$46.5 million in historic preservation grants to 59 states and U.S. territories. In announcing the awards, Secretary Salazar noted that "Preserving and celebrating our nation's rich history is a vital part of the Department of the Interior's mission... these grants from the Historic Preservation Fund will assist state, tribal and local governments in telling their stories while providing both cultural and economic benefits to the communities and to the nation as a whole." In 2008 projects similarly funded generated more than 67,700 jobs, created more than 10,390 housing units, and led to more than \$5.64 billion of private investments in the rehabilitation of commercial historic properties.

## **PROMOTING SCIENCE AND PROTECTIONS FOR WILDLIFE**

### **Restoring Endangered Species Consultation**

The Obama Administration through Secretary Salazar and Secretary of Commerce Locke restored the role of independent science in the Endangered Species Act's (ESA) "Section 7" interagency consultation process. The two Secretaries rescinded the previous Administration's December 2008 regulation that curtailed longstanding requirements for federal agencies to consult with the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—the two agencies that administer the ESA—on actions that may affect threatened or endangered species. Their decision requires federal agencies to once again consult with federal wildlife experts before taking action that may jeopardize threatened or endangered species.



### **Celebrating Restoration of the Endangered Brown Pelican**

Reflecting the value and success of the Endangered Species Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service removed the brown pelican, once threatened with extinction by the pesticide DDT, from the list of threatened and endangered species.



*Brown Pelican*

#### **Investing ARRA Funds for Jobs Relating to Science and Wildlife Protection**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is investing \$280 million under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to improve energy efficiency and renewable energy use on refuges and other facilities throughout the nation; restore wetlands, riparian habitat, and endangered species habitat; and restore and rehabilitate Service facilities crucial to the management and restoration of wildlife and fisheries.

In addition, the U.S. Geological Survey is investing \$140 million under the Act to restore and rehabilitate laboratories and research facilities and vessels; improve energy efficiency of facilities, upgrade earthquake and volcano monitoring networks and data centers to more robustly provide timely and accurate hazard information; and modernize stream gauges critical to monitoring stream flows and

providing information to water managers and the public.

### **Protecting the Polar Bear**

The Fish and Wildlife Service began the administrative process to designate a proposed 200,500 square miles of critical habitat in the Arctic for the polar bear.

#### **A New Path for the Wild Horse and Burro Program**

Secretary Salazar proposed a national solution to restore the health of America's wild horse and burro herds and the rangelands that support them by creating a cost-efficient, sustainable management program that includes the possible creation of wild horse preserves. The proposals are intended to fix the current, decades-old program that is not sustainable for the animals, the environment, or the taxpayers.



*Polar Bear*

### **Battle Creek (California) Restoration**

Using ARRA funds, the Bureau of Reclamation moved forward on a project to restore approximately 42 miles of prime salmon and steelhead habitat on Battle Creek in northern California, plus an additional six miles on its tributaries. Restoration of this perennial cold-water habitat will protect salmon species during drought, contribute to the recovery of their populations, and improve the reliability of the water supply in the rivers and tributaries.

### **San Joaquin River Restoration**

In October, the Bureau of Reclamation began implementing the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement with the release of experimental "interim flows" from Friant Dam. The flows could provide valuable information about actions that will be required to support salmon reintroduction in the river, as called for in the settlement.

### **Proposed International Protections for Endangered Species**

The Obama Administration, through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, submitted a number of proposals and resolutions for consideration during the upcoming meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in Doha, Qatar in March 2010. CITES is the international agreement which 175 nations have signed to ensure that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten their continued survival. Submitted proposals include (1) increased protections for the polar bear, (2) listing of six shark species due to overexploitation of the fin trade on their population status, and (3) listing of 31 red and pink corals for protection.

### **De-Listing the Gray Wolf in Idaho and Montana**

Based upon best available science, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service removed the gray wolf in Idaho and Montana, but not Wyoming, from the list of threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. This decision was based upon the Service's wildlife biologists' conclusion that gray wolf populations in Montana and Idaho have returned to healthy levels and that state management plans are adequate to ensure continuing healthy population levels. The scientists also concluded that Wyoming's proposed wolf management plan is not adequate.

# ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

## BUILDING OUR CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY

The Department of the Interior oversees one fifth of the nation's landmass and more than 1.7 billion acres of the outer-continental shelf. In light of this, President Obama and Secretary Salazar believe the department should be a leader in developing a comprehensive energy plan that creates jobs in America, reduces our dependence on foreign oil, and protects our children from the dangers of pollution.

To fulfill this vision, the Obama Administration has used existing authorities within Interior to develop a new renewable energy frontier for America that embraces and promotes environmentally responsible renewable energy projects on public lands and off our coasts.



*Solar array, California*

### **First Secretarial Order: Making Renewable Energy a Priority for the Department**

In March, Secretary Salazar issued his first secretarial order, declaring renewable energy development, production and delivery onshore and offshore a top priority for the Department with the goal of reducing both the country's dependence on foreign oil and its greenhouse gas pollution.

### **Cutting Red Tape for Onshore Renewable Energy Development**

At the Secretary's direction, the Bureau of Land Management opened Renewable Energy Coordination Offices in California, Nevada, Wyoming and Arizona and established teams in six other states to facilitate renewable energy production on public lands. These offices and teams are expediting the required reviews of ready-to-go solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass projects. They are also supporting the speedy permitting of power transmission projects on public lands.

### **First-Ever Solar Focus on Public Lands**

For the first time ever, the federal government set aside public lands it will consider for potential development of renewable energy. Interior is evaluating 1,000 square miles in 24 designated Solar Energy Study Areas across the West for potential solar energy development.

### **First-Ever State-Federal Partnership to Develop Renewable Energy**

In October, Secretary Salazar and California Governor Schwarzenegger signed a first-ever Memorandum of Understanding between the state and the federal government to expedite a robust, science-based process for siting, reviewing, approving and permitting renewable energy projects on Interior-managed lands in California. The goal of the memorandum is to ramp up construction of renewable energy projects by December 2010.

### **Expediting Power Transmission on Federal Lands**

Recognizing that renewable energy projects require transmission facilities to reach the places people live and work, the Obama Administration developed a first-ever Memorandum of Understanding among nine federal agencies to expedite the siting and permitting of electronic transmission projects on federal lands.

Interior has already identified and designated more than 5,000 miles of transmission corridors on the lands it manages to facilitate the siting and permitting of transmission lines in the right ways and in the right places.



*Wind turbines on BLM land, California*

Meanwhile, the Department is processing more than 30 applications for major transmission corridor rights-of-way on lands it manages. Seven of these applications—in Idaho, California and Nevada—are being “fast tracked” and could clear the permitting process by 2010.

Together, these seven projects could add more than 1,000 miles of new transmission.

### **Cutting Red Tape for Offshore Renewable Energy Development**

Secretary Salazar worked with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Chairman John Wellinghoff to cut the bureaucratic red tape between FERC and Interior that could delay renewable energy projects. The Department reached a Memorandum of Understanding with FERC that details procedures and processes to be used by the two agencies, settling jurisdictional questions that had been unresolved for several years. These questions created confusion and uncertainty for potential offshore renewable energy projects, effectively delaying or discouraging their development.

### **Launching New “Rules of the Road” for Offshore Renewable Energy Development**

On the 39<sup>th</sup> Earth Day April 22, 2009, President Obama and Secretary Salazar announced Department of the Interior rules creating the first-ever framework for offshore renewable energy development. These long-delayed rules open the gates for the responsible development of significant offshore wind energy potential.



*Secretary Salazar tours the Middelgrunden offshore wind farm in Denmark (Photo by Jacob Nielsen)*

### **Promoting Offshore Wind Energy Development**

In 2009, Interior awarded four exploratory leases for renewable wind energy production on the outer continental shelf – the first ever -- offshore New Jersey and Delaware. The Department also established the first five federal-state offshore renewable energy task forces with states along the Atlantic seaboard.

### **Creating an Atlantic Region Offshore Renewable Energy Office**

In December, Secretary Salazar announced that Interior's Minerals Management Service (MMS) will establish a renewable energy regional office in 2010. This will be the first-ever federal office specifically supporting renewable energy development on the federal outer continental shelf off the Atlantic seaboard. The office will be responsible for evaluating permits for renewable energy activities in an effective, efficient and consistent manner, working with the States, developers and other stakeholders to address their requests and concerns.

### **Increasing the Renewable Energy Potential of Hydropower**

Secretary Salazar directed Interior's Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), the nation's second largest hydropower producer, to evaluate new capacity and efficiency increases at existing projects that could help realize undeveloped power potential. Hydropower constitutes approximately 70 percent of the nation's current renewable energy generation. The bureau is developing a plan that prioritizes development of new hydropower capacity at existing facilities. In addition, Interior is working with the Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Office to facilitate and coordinate new hydropower development.

### **Highlighting the Importance of Clean Energy Development**

On behalf of the Obama Administration, Secretary Salazar hosted a White House Clean Energy Forum in November with stakeholders from 39 states across the country. The stakeholders represented a broad-based network of organizations and institutions, including sportsmen and -women, business leaders, environmentalists, and representatives from Indian country. The Secretary and the Department's top officials engaged with forum participants in a wide-ranging discussion about the importance of developing renewable energy on federal lands and elsewhere, the potential for job creation in developing a clean energy economy, climate impact and adaptation, and efforts to support and maintain the treasured landscapes of America.

## **RESPONSIBLY DEVELOPING CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES**

President Obama and Secretary Salazar recognize that America's oil, gas, and coal supplies will remain an important component of a comprehensive energy plan. Therefore, the department is working to ensure that the conventional energy sources that it manages are developed in the right



*Secretary Salazar and Louisiana Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu tour the Medusa Star offshore oil production rig in the Gulf of Mexico*

way and in the right places, helping meet our nation's energy needs while protecting the environment.

### **Approving New Oil and Gas Leases**

- In 2009, Interior held 35 onshore lease sales and two offshore auctions. Together, these sales offered more than 2,542 parcels covering 2.9 million acres in the West (1,312 parcels sold, covering 1.1 million acres) and more than 55 million acres offshore (1.9 million acres leased) of federal land for oil and natural gas exploration and

development. The auctions generated more than \$937 million in revenues that are shared between the states and federal government.

- Interior approved Shell Oil’s exploratory plans on existing leases in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas north of Alaska.
- In November, Interior announced its 2010 schedule for 38 lease sales for oil and natural gas on U.S. public lands—37 quarterly sales in a dozen, mostly Western states, and the first sale in nearly two years for tracts in the northern reaches of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.
- Secretary Salazar also announced that the Department will hold an oil and natural gas lease sale for the Central Gulf of Mexico in March 2010 that will offer nearly 36 million acres and could produce up to 1.3 billion barrels of oil and 5.4 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

### **Reforming the Management of Onshore Oil and Gas Resources**

Secretary Salazar announced new administrative proposals, which Interior developed in 2009 and made public in January 2010, to reform the federal onshore oil and gas program. The reforms will



*Pump unit near Price, Utah*

provide more balance and certainty in the oil and gas leasing program—thereby benefiting both industry and taxpayers. The reforms grew out of a comprehensive review of oil and gas leasing activities in Utah that occurred at the end of the previous Administration. Interior withdrew some of those leases over concerns about impacts on national parks and other sensitive resources. A follow-up analysis of the practices that led to the controversial leasing decisions highlighted the need for a more systematic and deliberative approach to making leasing decisions.

### **Crafting a More Orderly Approach to Offshore Oil and Gas Development**

On its last business day in office, the previous Administration proposed a new five-year plan for oil and gas leasing to supersede the current 2007-2012 five-year plan it had previously approved. The proposal provided for an unrealistically short public comment period and a disingenuous timeline for implementation. In response, Secretary Salazar announced a four-part strategy for developing both conventional and renewable offshore energy. The Secretary:

- Extended the public comment period on the new draft five-year plan for the OCS by 180 days;
- Directed the Minerals Management Service and the U.S. Geological Survey to assemble a report on the available resources in the OCS and provide to the public in advance of public hearings;
- Held four regional meetings around the country in New Jersey, Louisiana, Alaska and California, to gather public input on the proposed new five-year plan; and

- Expedited the Department's renewable energy rulemaking for the Outer Continental Shelf, resulting in the Earth Day announcement of first-ever rules of the road for offshore renewable energy development.

The Department will announce a new proposal for oil and gas development on the Outer Continental Shelf in early 2010.

### **Promoting Oil Shale Research**

In February, Secretary Salazar withdrew the previous administration's solicitation for a second round of oil shale research, development and demonstration (RD&D) leases issued just days before leaving office. The leases included several flaws, including locking in a premature commercial regulatory framework establishing a low royalty rate that may shortchange taxpayers in the future, and expanding the new round of lease parcels to four times the size of the current six RD&D leases. Salazar promised a second round of oil shale RD&D leases with more responsible provisions and specific research requirements.

In October, Secretary Salazar proposed additional opportunities for energy companies to conduct oil shale research on public lands in offering a second round of RD&D leases for industry consideration. These new leases of 160 acres each (480 additional contiguous acres could be added for commercial scale development if the RD&D proves successful) contain provisions designed to help address fundamental concerns about water supply requirements, power use, and the environmental and social impacts of commercial-scale development.

### **Reviewing 11<sup>th</sup>-Hour Oil Shale Research Lease Addenda**

Just five days before leaving office in January 2009, the previous administration added a set of favorable conditions and low royalty rates to six previously approved oil shale research, development and demonstration (RD&D) leases without public notice or comment. Secretary Salazar determined that the timing and circumstances of those last minute modifications of existing RD&D leases merited additional review and requested an Inspector General review of these lease addenda to ensure their propriety.

### **Minerals Management Service (MMS) Management Reforms**

In the wake of Secretary Salazar's direction to review how Interior manages its oil and gas development, Interior's MMS reorganized its revenue management program. This will, among other things, enhance managerial oversight and provide clear reporting responsibilities, consolidate all oil and gas production reporting and accountability functions under one organization, and improve the timeliness and accuracy of oil and gas production reports.

### **Termination of Royalty-In-Kind Program**

Secretary Salazar announced a phased-in termination of the Minerals Management Service's controversial Royalty-In-Kind program that accepted oil and natural gas from producers in lieu of cash royalty payments and an orderly transition to a more transparent and accountable royalty collection system. Critics have long contended the program has developed from a modest pilot project into a program rife with potential for corruption that does not provide a fair revenue return to the American taxpayer. The Government Accountability Office had also raised concerns about the effectiveness and fiscal soundness of the program. Restoring royalty collections to a cash basis allows clear auditing of returns and certainty for the taxpayer. Allegations of misconduct within the RIK program were at the heart of an ethics scandal in the previous Administration that Secretary Salazar vowed to address upon taking office.

## RESPONDING TO THE REALITIES OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is affecting every corner of the American continent. It is making droughts drier and longer, floods more dangerous, and hurricanes more severe. The glaciers in Montana's Glacier National Park are melting so quickly that they are expected to disappear in the next two decades. The world's first wildlife refuge – Florida's Pelican Island, which President Teddy Roosevelt set aside in 1903 – is being consumed by rising seas. Eleven of the 12 warmest years on record have occurred in the last 15 years. Spring arrives across the U.S. 10 days to two weeks earlier than it did 20 years ago and the ranges of many plants and animals have shifted northward and to higher elevations. Birds in the Northeast are returning from their wintering grounds in the South an average of 14 days earlier than they did in the first half of the last century.

Secretary Salazar attended the historic Copenhagen Climate Summit in December on behalf of



*Ice flows. Alaska. USGS*

President Obama to deliver a simple message: the United States of America understands the danger that climate change poses to our world and we are committed to confronting it. Together with our partners in the international community, we will help build a strong, achievable, carbon reduction strategy. And we will deploy American technology, American vision, and American ingenuity for the benefit of our planet and all peoples.

### Secretarial Order on Climate Change

Secretary Salazar issued a secretarial order launching the department's first-ever coordinated, science-based strategy to address current and future impacts of climate change on America's land, water, oceans, fish, wildlife and human and cultural resources. The order establishes a framework through which Interior bureaus will coordinate climate change science and resource management strategies. Under the framework:

- A new Climate Change Response Council, which the Secretary is leading, is coordinating Interior's response to the impacts of climate change within and among the Interior bureaus and will work to improve the sharing and communication of climate change impact science.
- Interior will establish a network of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives to engage other federal agencies, local and state partners, and the public to craft practical, landscape-level strategies for managing climate change impacts within the eight regions. The cooperatives will focus on impacts such as the effects of climate change on wildlife migration patterns, wildfire risk, drought, or invasive species that typically extend beyond the borders of any single national wildlife refuge, BLM unit or national park.
- Eight regional Climate Science Centers, serving Alaska, the Northeast, Southeast, Southwest, Midwest, West, Northwest and Pacific Regions, will synthesize existing climate change impact data and management strategies, help resource managers put them into action on the ground, and engage the public through education initiatives.



## Promoting Carbon Sequestration and Storage

- **Geological Storage of Carbon.** Interior's U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) scientists launched a historic nationwide assessment of the geological storage capacity for carbon dioxide in oil and gas reservoirs and saline formations below the Earth's surface by creating a methodology to assess the nation's resources for geologic carbon sequestration in oil and gas reservoirs and saline formations across the United States. These efforts complement the efforts of the Department of Energy, which is investing an unprecedented \$2.4 billion to accelerate the commercial deployment of the technologies that will capture and sequester carbon dioxide. Together, Interior and Energy's initiatives will help America make smarter, cleaner use of energy resources like coal, which is so abundant in the United States.
- **Biological Storage of Carbon.** USGS scientists also completed the first phase of a project to identify carbon storage in natural landscapes (biological sequestration). The project involves a groundbreaking assessment of the nation's ability to capture and store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as a means to mitigate climate change. In December, USGS scientists announced they have found that plants and soils in the lower 48 states store almost 90 billion metric tons of carbon – or the equivalent of around 50 years of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions at current levels. All together, terrestrial ecosystems in the U.S. are soaking up carbon equivalent to about 30 percent of U.S. fossil fuel CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

By restoring ecosystems, using best management practices, and protecting certain areas from development, federal lands can store more carbon in ways that enhance our stewardship of land and natural resources while reducing our contribution to global warming.

## Joining Forces Worldwide to Address Climate Change Impacts on River Deltas

USGS launched the Delta Research and Global Observation Network (DRAGON) partnership with the goals of sharing information and data from deltas around the world and developing models that inform management decisions related to deltas and large river systems. Because of the similarity between the Mississippi River and Mekong River deltas, for instance, the United States and the countries of the lower Mekong Delta have developed a scientific partnership to study the potential impacts of climate change and sea level rise. The predictive models they are developing will help balance the interests of people, ecology, food security, and economic drivers such as fisheries, agriculture, and energy production.

## Copenhagen Climate Summit

In demonstrating its commitment to addressing the realities of climate change, the Obama Administration sent an unprecedented high-level delegation of its senior officials to the historic 192-nation Copenhagen Climate Summit in December. Secretary Salazar, Deputy Secretary Hayes and other Interior officials served as members of the U.S. delegation.

Secretary Salazar delivered keynote remarks at the Summit highlighting the seriousness of the need to address the causes and effects of climate change around the world in a speech titled *The New Energy Future: The Role of Public Lands in Clean Energy Production and Carbon Capture*. Secretary Salazar's speech kicked off a series of presentations by top Interior officials including, among others, Deputy Secretary David J. Hayes, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Thomas Strickland, and U.S. Geological Survey Director Dr. Marcia McNutt.

# EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN, ALASKAN AND ISLAND COMMUNITIES

President Obama has placed a high priority on restoring the nation-to-nation relationship between the federal government and Indian tribes. Secretary Salazar is committed to helping American Indian and Alaska Native communities prosper, expanding opportunities for young people, improving schools, strengthening law enforcement, and helping these communities develop renewable energy resources on their lands. Interior is integrating Native American interests, concerns and needs as never before into the goals, policies and new directions of the department, including the Department's efforts to tackle climate change, build a clean energy economy, and to protect land, water and cultural sites.



*Secretary Salazar greets Joe Medicine Crow, the recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Obama*

## **Building a New Federal Relationship at an Historic White House Tribal Nations Conference**

In November, President Obama met with more than 400 leaders of federally recognized tribes gathered at the Department of the Interior at a Tribal Nations Conference to mutually affirm the Administration's commitment to a new, more positive and productive relationship with the country's First Americans and to discuss efforts to address the issues confronting Indian country.

## **Settling the Long-Running and Contentious Cobell Lawsuit**

After 13 years of contentious litigation, hundreds of motions, dozens of court rulings and appeals, several trials, and several failed attempts at settlement, Secretary Salazar fulfilled a commitment presidential candidate Barack Obama made to work toward resolving the Cobell class-action lawsuit regarding the U.S. government's management and accounting of more than 300,000 individual American Indian trust accounts. As part of that pledge, Secretary Salazar personally participated in negotiations. In Indian Country, the lawsuit came to symbolize the federal government's neglect of and indifference to its trust responsibilities to the nation's American Indians.

In December, Secretary Salazar and Attorney General Eric Holder announced the settlement of the long-running, bitter lawsuit, subject to congressional and court approval.

## Creating Jobs in Native American Communities through the Economic Recovery Act

Under President Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Department's Bureau of Indian Affairs is investing \$500 million in tribal communities across the country, including:

- School Improvement and Repairs - \$143.1 million
- Road Maintenance - \$142.5 million
- School Replacement Construction - \$134.6 million
- Housing Improvement Program (HIP) - \$19 million
- Construction Workforce On-the-Job Training in Maintenance - \$13.3 million
- Workforce Training - \$5.7 million
- Detention Center Maintenance and Repairs - \$7.3 million
- Indian Guaranteed Loan Program - \$9.5 million



*Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Larry Echo Hawk with Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley and students and officials from the Rough Rock Community School*

## Working with Congress to Prioritize Issues of Concern to Native American Communities

In March, Secretary Salazar appeared before the Senate Indian Affairs Committee – his first congressional testimony since his confirmation – to testify on the Obama Administration's priorities on issues of concern to American Indian and Native Alaska communities. Secretary Salazar pledged the Administration's commitment to work with Chairman Dorgan and other members of Congress to help strengthen law enforcement on tribal lands, to help tribes cut through the red tape of the energy permitting process, and to work to on resolving outstanding Indian trust issues.



*First Lady Michelle Obama receives a traditional American Indian woman's shawl*

## A New Era for Tribal Consultation

In response to an executive memorandum issued by President Obama at the historic White House all-nations conference in November, the Department of the Interior initiated steps to develop a department-wide policy on tribal consultation. Interior will develop the new consultation policy with input from the nation's 564 federally-recognized tribes. President Obama's memorandum directs all federal departments and agencies to develop a "plan of actions" to implement President Clinton's 2000 executive order requiring consultation and coordination with tribal governments.

### **Interior-Justice Law Enforcement Working Group**

Recognizing that law enforcement needs on tribal lands have been critically neglected, early in his term Secretary Salazar and Attorney General Eric Holder launched a joint DOI-DOJ high-level workgroup to spur action on these important issues. A DOI senior-level working group was also created. Successes already achieved include a revamped recruiting process for BIA law officers that has increased by over 500% the number of applicants for those positions; implementation of an expedited bridge officer training program for State-certified police officers to become BIA officers in 2010, shaving 14 weeks off deployment time; and implementation in 2010 of a targeted, intense community policing pilot program on four reservations that is anticipated to reduce crime by over 5% on each of those reservations by year-end 2011. In addition, work continues with DOJ to streamline DOI-DOJ tribal law enforcement budgets and programs to best serve tribal law enforcement needs, including full coordination on the siting of detention centers on Indian lands.

### **Tribal Recognition**

Interior's Indian Affairs launched a review of the federal system of recognizing Indian tribes.

### **Indian Gaming Policy**

The Indian Affairs began a review of controversial federal government process and policies regarding off-reservation Indian gaming, and associated trust acquisitions.

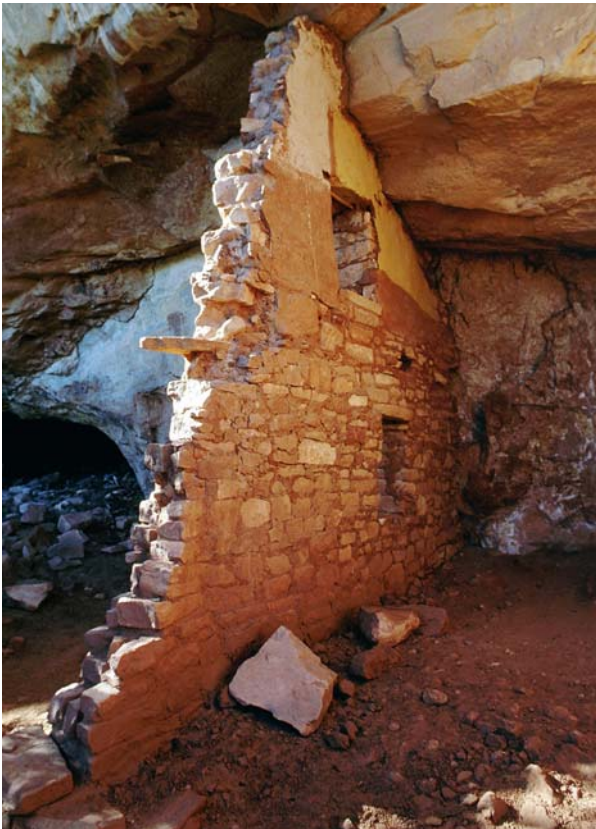
### **Signing and Implementing Major Indian Water Rights Settlements**

In March, 2009, President Obama signed the Public Land Management Act of 2009 which included two American Indian Water Rights settlements.

- The Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Project Act authorizes the settlement of the longtime water rights claims of the Navajo Nation in the San Juan Basin in New Mexico. In connection with this water rights settlement:
  - Secretary Salazar gave final approval to the Bureau of Reclamation's Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project, clearing the way for resolving the Navajo Nation's long-standing water rights claims in New Mexico and implementation of the Navajo Nation-San Juan River Basin Water Rights Settlement. The water supply project will provide clean, safe and reliable water to a quarter of a million people in the Navajo Nation, the City of Gallup, NM and the Jicarilla Apache Nation.
  - Secretary Salazar announced a \$27.4 million Bureau of Reclamation contract for the construction of the Navajo Nation Municipal Pipeline to provide for the delivery of municipal and industrial water from Farmington, New Mexico to Shiprock, Arizona. The pipeline is part of the Animas-La Plata Project, which fulfills the requirements of the 1988 Colorado Ute Indian Water Rights Settlement Act and the Colorado Ute Settlement Act of 2000. When completed, the Animas-La Plata Project will provide the Navajo Nation, Southern Ute Indian Tribe and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and the people of the Four Corners area with a reliable water supply.
- The Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation Water Rights Settlement, reached after over a decade of negotiations, resolves the tribes' surface and ground water claims in Nevada and also establishes two trust funds to enable the Tribes to put their water

to use. The rehabilitation and expansion of the Duck Valley Indian Irrigation Project will restore fish and wildlife habitat on the reservation, and the trust funds created will sustain and enhance the struggling reservation economy.

- Initial funding of \$18 million for both of these settlements are included in the President's FY 2010 budget and Secretary Salazar directed the appointment of departmental implementation teams for both of these settlements so that the work to finalize them can begin immediately. These actions strongly signal the importance of Indian Water Rights Settlements to the Obama Administration. This commitment has been further demonstrated by the revitalization of the Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office and the affirmative testimony provided by the Obama Administration on several pending—but previously stalled—Indian water rights settlements.



*Canyon of the Ancients National Monument, Colorado*

### **Protecting Sacred American Indian Sites and Treasures**

Culminating an unprecedented two-year undercover operation led by agents from Interior's Bureau of Land Management and the FBI, federal and state law enforcement authorities in June began rounding up for federal prosecution a ring of archeological grave robbers who looted pristine sites, desecrated ancient American Indian burials and stole priceless artifacts in the Four Corners region of the Southwest, selling them to dealers and collectors who were associated with the network. It is the nation's largest investigation of archeological and cultural artifacts thefts to date. Secretary Salazar, the U.S. Attorney General's Office and Utah's U.S. Attorney announced the investigation and roundup of suspects in Salt Lake City as the arrests were under way.

### **Working with Tribes to Address the Supreme Court's *Carcieri* Decision**

The Department, on behalf of the Obama Administration, engaged in formal consultations on a government-to-government basis with federally-recognized Indian tribes nationwide to discuss potential approaches to address the Supreme Court's decision in *Carcieri v. Salazar*. This resulted in a proposal that has been incorporated into legislation now being considered by Congress. The Court held that the Secretary of the Interior did not have the authority to take land into trust for tribes that were not "under federal jurisdiction" in 1934, when the Indian Reorganization Act was enacted.

### **Prioritizing the Development of Renewable Energy in Indian Country**

As part of the Obama Administration's pledge to work in partnership with American Indian communities to advance sustainable economic development, Secretary Salazar has made it a

departmental priority to explore the potential for wind, solar, geothermal, and biomass energy production on tribal lands. These lands have major renewable energy potential and the development of these resources offers one of the greatest opportunities for sustainable economic development for tribes. It is also a priority to involve tribes in determining sites for developing the transmission capacity that will deliver these renewable resources to consumers. The development of renewable energy and associated transmission projects could generate thousands of sustainable jobs for these tribal communities.

### **One Stop Energy Shop Pilot Project**

The department established a one-stop shop at the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in North Dakota that streamlines oil and gas leasing for regional Indian tribes and individual landowners. This will serve as a model for other areas of the country.

### **Promoting Health Initiatives at Indian Schools**

Secretary Salazar launched a partnership with Florida State University football All-American Rhodes Scholar Myron Rolle to introduce an innovative physical fitness and health program into five Interior-funded American Indian schools. The Myron Rolle Foundation specifically tailored the program to the culture and heritage of American Indians.

### **Promoting Transparency in Indian Trust Fund Operations**

To create more transparency in the operation of the Department's trust fund program serving American Indians, Interior has adopted a new policy whereby it now provides regular status updates to the public on the financial health and ongoing reforms of the American Indian Trust.

### **Revamping Alaska Native Subsistence Program**

Secretary Salazar launched a comprehensive review of the Department's subsistence hunting and fishing management policies and programs on federal lands and in water in and abutting federal lands. The goal is to make these policies work more effectively to meet the needs of Native Alaskan communities. The review is the first since the Department took over management of these rights in the early 1990s.

### **A New Relationship with Island Communities**

The Obama Administration focused renewed attention and commitment on island communities:

- **Increasing Engagement.** The White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs became an active participant in the government's Interagency Group on Insular Areas, helping to resolve specific issues and making this interagency team a stronger force within the federal establishment, with better results for the islands.
- **Renewed Priority.** Secretary Salazar restored the position of Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas. The new Assistant Secretary, Tony Babauta, is the first Pacific Islander ever to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior and the first person overseeing Insular Areas within Interior to hail from any one of the U.S. territories.
- **Strengthening Relationships in the Caribbean.** In an effort to improve the federal government's relations in the Caribbean, the Department appointed a desk officer to aid in the resolution of issues relating to the U.S. Virgin Islands.

- **Preventing Blackouts.** When the island of Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands was suffering acute power failures and rationing due to defective equipment and mismanagement, the Department provided grants for supplementary power and repair of generating equipment.
- **Prompt Response to Disaster.** In the wake of the terrible tsunami that hit the island of American Samoa, the federal government responded quickly and forcefully in search and rescue efforts, emergency assistance, and cleanup.
- **Preparing for an Enhanced National Security Presence on Guam.** The Interagency Group on Insular Areas pledged a new focus on coordinating federal agency actions that will help the U.S. territorial government of Guam construct new and expanded facilities to accommodate the influx of thousands of U.S. military personnel and dependents in the coming years. Guam is strategic for the U.S. military posture in the Western Pacific. It is anticipated that by 2014, 8,000 Marines and 9,000 dependents will be transferred from Okinawa to Guam. In addition, Guam will be the home port of a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier with more than 7,000 transient personnel, and an Army Air and Missile Task Force with almost 800 Defense employees. These far reaching moves spell big changes not only for the U.S. military but also for the civilians on Guam.
- **Preserving Coral Reefs.** After years of efforts to establish a scientific center to study and preserve the world's vital coral reef systems, the Department joined forces with the Joint Institute for Caribbean Marine Studies to establish the Salt River Bay Marine Research and Education Center on St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.

# CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR AMERICA'S YOUTH IN THE OUTDOORS

The Department of the Interior is engaging thousands of young people across the country in conservation and energy efficiency projects on America's public lands, to inspire and provide career pathways to young people for employment in natural resource occupations and related sciences, and to become better educated about the nation's ecosystems and the importance and value of conservation and protection of our natural resources.



*Secretary Salazar and volunteers from the Youth Conservation Corps kick off the United We Serve initiative in Shenandoah National Park*

## **Educating Our Youth**

More than 2.14 million young people participated in more than 57,100 education programs offered through the National Park Service in 2009.

## **Funding for Youth Employment and Education**

The FY 2010 budget for the Department provided \$20 million in additional funding for the Youth Careers in Nature – an initiative that bolsters environmental education, recreation, and service programs throughout the Department, and engages thousands of youth in the outdoors.

## **Employment Opportunities**

Secretary Salazar directed Interior's agencies to identify opportunities for youth to engage in projects that are being funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Through a combination of ARRA funds and non-ARRA funds, and in partnership with non-federal organizations, the Department employed or helped employ 8,200 youths around the country in 2009.

## **Office of Youth**

In April, Secretary Salazar issued a secretarial order creating the Office of Youth within the Department of the Interior. The designation of the office institutionalizes the goal of creating service opportunities for young Americans for years to come. The Office of Youth will build upon and expand the Department's youth programs, expand opportunities for young people of all backgrounds, support initiatives that teach recreational activities such as hiking, biking, hunting and fishing, and help coordinate youth initiatives across the bureaus.



# TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES

## Creating Jobs While Modernizing America's Water Infrastructure

Interior's Bureau of Reclamation is investing \$1 billion through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to fund water re-use projects and construct rural water projects that will provide clean, reliable drinking water to residents of rural areas, including Indian tribes, and ensure adequate water supplies to western localities. Funds are also being used to promote water conservation, improve energy efficiency, repair aging water infrastructure, and meet endangered species requirements through physical improvements such as fish screens and fish passage projects. Funding includes:

- Meeting Future Water Supply Needs (including Title XVI Water Reuse and Rural Water projects) - \$450.9 million
- Infrastructure reliability and safety - \$164.6 million
- Environmental/ecosystem restoration/green buildings - \$371.8 million
- Water Conservation Initiative - Challenge Grants - \$40 million
- Emergency Drought Relief - \$40 million



*The Colorado River near Moab, Utah*

In addition, ARRA funds are being administered through Interior's U.S. Geological Survey to modernize stream gauges critical for monitoring stream flows and providing information to water managers and the public.

## Sustainable Water Strategy

The Department began work in 2009 on a Sustainable Water Strategy designed to provide national leadership in identifying ways to ensure adequate supplies of water for drinking, economic activity, agriculture, recreation, and ecosystem health in recognition of the challenges posed by increasing population, new demands on domestic water development, and the water-related impacts of climate change.

## Basin Studies Program

The Bureau of Reclamation launched an historic basin studies program in September designed to evaluate and assess the impacts of climate change on water supplies and to develop adaptation strategies. The studies involve the Colorado River Basin (7 States - WY, CO, UT, NM, AZ, NV, CA), Yakima River Basin (WA), and the Milk and St. Mary River Systems (MT). The studies, being carried out with state, local, and tribal partners, will better define options for future water management of these three river basins where climate change, drought, population increases, and environmental needs have heightened competition for scarce water supplies.

### **Yuma Desalting Plant Pilot Run**

The Bureau of Reclamation completed its environmental work and the necessary agreements to initiate a pilot run of the Yuma Desalting Plant in May 2010, in collaboration with three water agencies from California, Nevada and Arizona. About 21,700 acre-feet of desalted water will be produced. This water will be combined with 7,300 acre-feet of untreated irrigation drainage water. The total amount, 29,000 acre-feet, will be discharged into the Colorado River and included in treaty deliveries to Mexico. This will reduce water releases from Lake Mead to meet treaty obligations.

### **Helping California Weather the Drought and Address Long-Term Water Supply and Environmental Restoration Needs for California's Bay Delta**

After eight years of the federal government sitting on the sidelines, the Obama Administration is fully engaged to help California address its short-term drought-related water crisis and its longer-term challenge of restoring and updating that state's water systems and related environmental ecosystems. The Obama Administration and the Department in 2009:

- Invested more than \$1 billion dollars in water-related projects in California, including more than \$419 million through the President's economic recovery plan, to help modernize California's water infrastructure. This included more than \$40 million in emergency assistance to help water-short Central Valley farmers. Drought-relief projects include temporary pipelines and pumps, new domestic and irrigation water wells, well-enhancement projects, and a groundwater monitoring project.



*New Melones Reservoir, California*

- Helped move record amounts of water, more than 600,000 acre feet, to communities in most need and took steps to prepare for a potential fourth year of drought. The Department also worked with California's Department of Water Resources to facilitate transfers into the state's Drought Water Bank, an innovative program that makes additional supplies of water obtainable during periods of drought or shortage.
- Elevated federal involvement to become a full partner in the collaborative process that California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger launched two years ago to restore the Bay Delta ecosystem and modernize the state's woefully outdated water infrastructure. The department also worked with the governor and California legislative leaders to encourage passage of comprehensive water legislation.
- Engaged in active outreach to communities in California impacted by the state's serious drought. This included Secretary Salazar hosting a June town hall meeting in Fresno, in the heart of California's drought-stricken agricultural region, the first such meeting by any high ranking federal government official since the drought began. Salazar listened and responded to the water concerns of the hundreds of concerned citizens, businesses and organizations

that attended. Secretary Salazar made a follow-up visit to a farm in the Central Valley in October to meet with farmers and farm workers to continue the dialogue. Additional meetings with key stakeholders in California were held by Deputy Secretary David J. Hayes and Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Michael Connor.

- Secretary Salazar and White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Chair Sutley on hosted a standing-room only meeting in September in Washington, DC with California state officials to hear from California’s congressional delegation and water and agriculture stakeholders and to report on the steps the federal government has been taking to address California’s water supply and ecosystem restoration needs.

- Expedited and completed the mandatory federal environmental review for construction of the Delta-Mendota Canal/California Aqueduct Intertie proposed by the region’s agricultural communities and water stakeholders. The Bureau of Reclamation subsequently issued a record of decision giving the green light to proceed with the construction of this important infrastructure project designed to better facilitate the delivery of water supplies.



*San Joaquin Valley National Wildlife Refuge*

- Initiated a National Academy of Sciences independent scientific review of key questions relating to the California Bay Delta and federal biological opinions regarding endangered species, and how to both protect the ecosystem and provide a reliable water supply.
- Developed an integrated working plan by the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of the Army, and CEQ to address California water issues. The plan will be updated and revised as needed. The coordinated federal action plan:
  - **Strengthens the federal government’s coordination of actions with the State of California**, especially its commitment to more fully engage federal agencies in the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, the most significant effort currently underway to address long-term water issues in California;
  - **Helps meet water needs through actions that promote smarter water supply and use** such as constructing projects that increase flexibility in the water supply system; enhancing water transfers; ensuring that the best science is applied to water supply decisions; and intensifying and aligning federal water conservation efforts with those of California;

- **Helps ensure healthy ecosystems and improved water quality** through independent reviews of key scientific questions, including a review of all factors that are contributing to the decline of the Bay Delta ecosystem; and
- **Calls for agencies to help deliver drought relief services and ensure integrated flood risk management**, including the prioritization of projects and activities for flood-risk management and related levee-stabilization projects.

# CHANGING HOW THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DOES BUSINESS

## Ethics Reform

Just two days after his confirmation, Secretary Salazar announced his plan to implement President Obama's agenda to strengthen ethical standards in the federal government and to clean up the ethical lapses that occurred under the previous Administration. In his first all-employee listening session and in a memorandum to all employees, Secretary Salazar outlined a set of high ethical standards that Department employees, both political and career, must follow. Secretary Salazar then traveled to the Minerals Management Service office in Denver, the site of several improprieties under the previous Administration, where – in consultation with the Department's Inspector General - he launched a major reform initiative within DOI, led by Chief of Staff and former U.S. Attorney Tom Strickland.

In September, Secretary Salazar issued a secretarial order that provides additional Department-wide leadership and direction to enhance and promote an ethical culture, honesty, and accountability throughout the Department. The Order calls for more financial and personnel resources to be allocated to ethics, increases the authority of ethics officers, and requires greater employee involvement in evaluating performance, accountability and compliance.

## Excellence and Diversity in Interior's Leadership

The Obama Administration and Secretary Salazar aggressively pursued the most qualified individuals in the country from both the public and private sector to help manage the Department of the Interior and spearhead the Administration's change and reform agenda. The result is the most diverse, qualified team ever of appointees leading the Department.

## Restoring the Department's Budget

The Obama Administration provided funding to the Department in its FY 2009 and FY 2010 budgets to address funding needs that had been consistently eroded since 2001, restoring agency budgets that had been sharply declined in real dollars over the previous years.

The Administration championed the passage of budgets in FY 2009 and FY 2010 that have positioned the department to play a central role in carrying out the President's vision for an American renewal. The budgets enable vital initiatives to promote energy security, protect and preserve America's treasured landscapes and public lands, enhance employment and education opportunities for young people, address the realities of climate change, and better support Native American communities.



*Little Stony Man Cliffs, Shenandoah National Park*

### Quantifying Interior's Jobs and Economic Contributions

At Secretary Salazar's direction, the Department's economic experts prepared a first-ever, coordinated, Department-wide report on Interior's direct and ancillary contributions to the U.S. economy. Never before had Interior attempted to quantify the economic impacts of its programs and activities agency-wide in economic terms. The report concludes that annually the Department of the Interior supports more than 1.4 million jobs for Americans and more than \$370 billion in economic activity; our federal parks, refuges and monuments generate more than \$24 billion in recreation and tourism; conventional and renewable energy produced on federal lands and waters results in \$292 billion in economic impacts; and use of water, timber and other resources on Interior-managed lands generates \$30 billion in economic activity.

### Carbon Footprint: Walking the Walk on Energy and Climate Change



*USGS survey of Dall Sheep Habitat, Denali National Park*

The Department launched its first-ever interdisciplinary cooperative effort to study and reduce the Department's carbon footprint, including development of protocols to measure greenhouse gases inventories in the public sector.

Interior is working to "green" its facilities around the nation, installing energy saving measures and solar panels in our national parks, refuges and other federal public lands and facilities under its jurisdiction.

### Opening Government through New Media Tools

Secretary Salazar launched an overhaul of the Department of the Interior's web presence and new media strategy. He appointed the first-ever New Media Director in the Department of the Interior, directed a redesign and restructuring of DOI's website as well as the creation of new tools for Interior employees and the public to communicate directly with him, and ordered a top-to-bottom review of the Department's information systems and policies. As a result of these directives, the public will now be able to follow the work of the DOI and its agencies on You Tube, Facebook, Flickr, and Twitter.

### Making Information More Accessible

As part of the Administration's pledge for an open and transparent department, Secretary Salazar announced the launching of two new resources to allow the public to view the government data about America's hydropower resources on a monthly basis and data about wildland fires from the National Interagency Fire Center on-line.



*Park Ranger Shelton Johnson portrays a Buffalo Soldier as he interprets Yosemite National Park's history for California school children*

The next generation, digitized topographic maps from the U.S. Geological Survey will now also be made available free to the public on the web. The next generation “US Topo” maps will provide the technical advantages over traditional paper-based maps that support faster, wider public distribution and enable basic, on-screen geographic analysis for all users. United States Geological Survey topographic maps have long been prized by specialized users and the public for their accuracy and for over a century have been the standard mapping reference for scientists, land managers, property owners and every variety of outdoor enthusiasts.

Additionally, thanks to a new Landsat data distribution policy of the U.S. Geological Survey, internet users can review, select, and download standard, preprocessed images of their choice from a vast archive of global land-cover and coastal imagery dating to 1972. In two days alone in December 2009, users downloaded over 25,000 scenes – more than in any entire year under the previous customer-specified data processing and distribution model.

### **Financial Management Reform**

In 2009 the Department presented its first consolidated audit, incorporating the separate audits of nine bureaus and multiple offices, successfully achieving a clean audit with no material weaknesses.

### **Acquisition and Property Management**

The Department implemented a new contractor suspension and debarment program to strengthen Interior’s oversight and enforcement capabilities and help protect against fraud, waste, abuse, and misuse of federal funds.

### **Implementing the Recovery Act with Openness and Accountability**

President Obama’s American Recovery and Reinvestment Act allocated nearly \$3 billion in economic stimulus funds, which provided an unprecedented one-time infusion of money for construction, renewable energy efforts, and maintenance backlogs across the country. Interior is investing Recovery Act dollars efficiently, transparently, and in accordance with President Obama’s priorities.



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR LEADERSHIP, 2010



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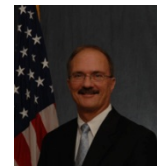
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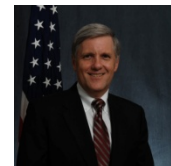
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