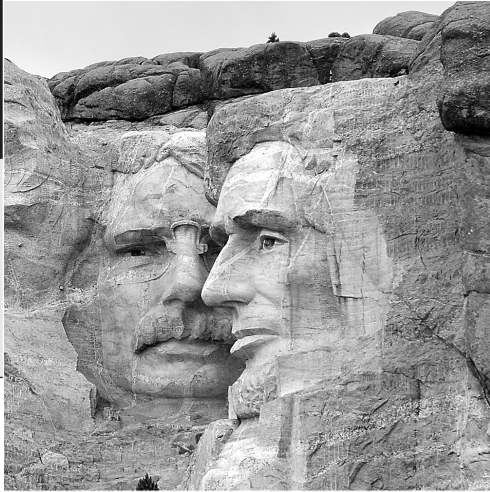


# Treasured Landscapes



*As custodians of our Nation's natural, cultural, and historic resources, we have a duty to protect the places that Americans love, and to help all Americans connect with their land and heritage.*

*Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior  
January 14, 2010*

Americans are losing – and losing touch with – the lands and places that set our Nation apart. The great outdoors that fuels the American spirit and the American economy is disappearing under the pressures of population growth, habitat fragmentation, and climate change. Every year, Americans lose large areas of open space to development.

Thanks to the foresight of great conservation leaders including John Muir, President Theodore Roosevelt, Stephen T. Mather, and many others, the Nation enjoys a diverse, awe-inspiring bounty of natural places and open spaces. The Department of the Interior manages much of this national treasure, including 392 park units, 551 national wildlife refuges, and the National Landscape Conservation System that comprises over 27 million acres.

Secretary Salazar has placed an emphasis on treasured landscapes, implementing wise stewardship, science based decisions, and forward-looking policies that will help protect the Nation's land, water, and wildlife for future generations.

The 2011 President's budget request will allow Interior to intensify efforts to manage these precious resources; to operate programs to maintain landscapes and facilities and to participate in major restoration efforts that restore, protect, and preserve key ecosystems and identify new areas for protection.

Interior's 2011 budget includes \$445.4 million, an increase of \$106.0 million for Federal land acquisition and State and Tribal grants funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The budget also includes \$288.2 million, an increase of \$71.4 million targeted to key ecosystems for restoration and renewal including the Everglades, California's



Bay-Delta ecosystem, the Gulf Coast of Louisiana and Mississippi, and the Chesapeake Bay. Additionally, the 2011 Environmental Protection Agency budget includes \$50.2 million targeted for Interior agencies participation in the Great Lakes Restoration initiative, a decrease of \$37.2 million from the 2010 enacted level.

## INVESTING IN AMERICA – THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

In 1964, Congress created the Land and Water Conservation Fund to fulfill a promise to protect the Nation's natural and recreational resources for future generations. In a February 14, 1963, letter transmitting the initial LWCF legislation to Congress, President John F. Kennedy noted the need for a land acquisition program to preserve Federal and State areas to provide a reliable source for national parks, monuments, forests, and wildlife refuges.



appropriation, to fund Federal land acquisition; conserve threatened and endangered species; and provide grants to States for recreation planning, acquiring lands and waters, and developing recreation facilities. The trust fund receives revenues primarily generated from outer continental shelf oil and gas drilling activities. Although \$900.0 million is deposited annually into the fund, appropriations have been provided at this level only twice during the program's 40-plus year history.

*"We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors," says a familiar Native American proverb, "we borrow it from our children."*

**Secretary Ken Salazar**  
**January 15, 2010**

*Actions deferred are all too often opportunities lost, particularly in safeguarding our natural resources.*

**President John F. Kennedy**  
**February 14, 1963**

Since 1964, for more than 40 years, LWCF has been a funding source for Federal, State, and local land acquisition and other conservation programs. A total of \$15.5 billion has been appropriated for Federal and State programs. Every year \$900.0 million is collected into the fund, and is available, subject to

President Obama's 2011 budget protects open spaces, forests, and wildlife habitat by providing \$619.2 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for key conservation and land acquisition programs in the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture. This is a 29 percent increase in 2011 over the 2010 enacted funding. The 2010 enacted level was a 58 percent increase over the 2009 enacted level. With these consecutive increases, appropriations from the LWCF are on track to reach \$900.0 million in full funding annually starting in 2014.

<b>TREASURED LANDSCAPES</b>			
(dollars in millions)			
	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>Change</u>
<b>LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND</b>			
<b>Department of the Interior</b>			
Federal Land Acquisition.....	214.4	310.4	+96.0
State LWCF Grants - NPS.....	40.0	50.0	+10.0
Cooperative Endangered Species			
Conservation Fund - FWS <sup>1/</sup> .....	<u>85.0</u>	<u>85.0</u>	<u>+0.0</u>
<b>Subtotal, Interior .....</b>	<b>339.4</b>	<b>445.4</b>	<b>+106.0</b>
<b>Department of Agriculture, Forest Service</b>			
Federal Land Acquisition.....	63.5	73.7	+10.2
Forest Legacy.....	<u>76.5</u>	<u>100.1</u>	<u>+23.6</u>
<b>Subtotal, Agriculture .....</b>	<b>140.0</b>	<b>173.8</b>	<b>+33.8</b>
<b>TOTAL, LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND</b>	<b>479.4</b>	<b>619.2</b>	<b>+139.8</b>

<sup>1/</sup> For comparability, numbers display enacted levels for CESCO. Congress funded \$56.0 million from LWCF in 2010.

The 2011 budget funds Federal Land Acquisition for Interior bureaus at \$310.4 million, an increase of \$96.0 million over the 2010 level. The 2011 budget includes \$50.0 million for the Department to assist States, local, and tribal governments with the protection and creation of park lands, open space, and wildlife habitat through competitively awarded State LWCF grants. This is an increase of \$10.0 million over the 2010 level. The Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund is funded at \$85.0 million, level with 2010. These funds will be used to provide grants to States for the conservation of threatened and endangered species.

**Federal Land Acquisition** – The Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service acquire important properties available for sale by willing sellers through fee title and easement. Lands are normally acquired at fair-market value or through partial or outright donations of property. Landowners can also sell or donate easements on their property while keeping the land in private ownership. Most lands acquired by these bureaus are additions to park units, national wildlife refuges, national monuments, and national conservation areas. Acquisition also results in additions to other areas including National Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Historic Trails, and Wilderness areas. Lands and waters are acquired to protect important natural and cultural resources, to consolidate lands within the boundaries of existing units, to provide public access to Federal management units, and to improve recreational use.

The three Interior land management bureaus use prioritization systems that consider multiple factors when determining which lands to acquire. These criteria include the mission value of their planned acquisitions, feasibility of acquiring and operating lands, the availability of willing sellers, the potential for imminent development of the property, and the participation of partners. Within the bureaus, there is a significant degree of coordination at the field and local level in developing conservation goals. However, for the first time, in 2011, Interior is proposing a list of land acquisition projects that demonstrate integration across the bureaus using consistent and merit-based criteria.

This new approach to the prioritization of projects will significantly advance projects that are collaborative and integrate the efforts of multiple entities and focus on highest priority conservation objectives. This approach begins to address repeated requests from the House and Senate Appropriations

## LWCF INVESTMENT CRITERIA

As part of the Secretary's reform agenda, Interior developed initial Department-wide criteria that the bureaus used to select projects that meet common conservation goals. These goals include optimizing landscape conservation for wildlife and their habitat, developing additional recreational opportunities in urban and rural areas, preserving historical and cultural assets, and leveraging private funds and donations.

Projects should demonstrate how they advance the following:

### Project Types

- Landscape level conservation. Projects that achieve goals on a landscape or ecosystem level with particular emphasis on:
  - Rivers, riparian, and natural water bodies.
  - Land conservation for wildlife and their habitat.
- Great urban parks and open spaces.
- Historical and cultural preservation.

### Project Criteria

- Leveraging: The amount of matching funds and donations that non-Federal partners bring to the project.
- Partnerships: The number, diversity, and relevance of all of the partners involved in advancing and supporting the project.
- Interior Integration: The degree to which projects involve more than one Interior bureau. Interior will also engage other Federal land management partners, such as the Forest Service, in pursuing common land acquisition and conservation goals.
- Urgency of completing the project.



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Committees to evaluate opportunities to better integrate the priorities of the three Interior bureaus and the Forest Service, to implement national conservation strategies, and to consider the need to adapt and mitigate for climate change impacts. Work will continue on this approach to harmonize land acquisition strategies.

The BLM request of \$83.7 million includes \$3.9 million in acquisition management, inholdings, exchanges, and emergency acquisition and \$79.8 million in line-item projects. This includes \$42.5 million for the proposed planning and acquisition of a wild horse preserve, a part of the Department's Wild Horse and Burro national management strategy. The BLM plans to establish wild horse preserves on productive grasslands that can better sustain these animals in contrast to western States where water and forage are extremely limited, and drought and wildfire threaten both rangeland and animal health. These new preserves would be located on lands, or interests in lands, acquired by BLM, or partners, and would be home to non-reproducing herds of wild horses. They would provide excellent opportunities to remove animals from short-term holding facilities, celebrate the historic significance of wild horses, showcase these animals to the American public, and serve as natural assets that support local tourism and economic activity.

The balance of the BLM land acquisition request, \$37.8 million, will be used to acquire 25,679 acres of high priority lands in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming. These acquisitions will focus on the protection of large blocks of habitat important for the preservation of natural and cultural resources and for recreation.



The BLM's top priority for 2011 is acquiring 450 acres along the Trinity National Wild and Scenic River. Encompassed by the Klamath region, the acquisition parcels are included in the landscape system of the 43-mile Trinity National Wild and Scenic River corridor and Grass Valley Watershed. Within these landscape systems, extensive watershed and forest restoration treatments have occurred and continue to occur, through partnerships, to support the habitat and management of threatened and endangered fish and wildlife species, promote forest health, and protect communities while providing and promoting a mix of recreational opportunities from hiking to white-water rafting. These restoration efforts are aimed at healing a landscape damaged by historic mining and extensive dredging activity within the river corridor.

The FWS request of \$106.3 million includes \$21.6 million in acquisition management, inholdings, exchanges, and emergency acquisition and \$84.8 million in line-item projects. The FWS projects address protection of 106,678 acres of significant and high priority wildlife and their habitat and will make investments in significant river and riparian habitat that will protect aquatic and terrestrial species that are dependent on these habitats. Included in the FWS request is \$5.0 million for grants to the States of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania authorized by the Highlands Conservation Act. Conservation of the Highlands region protects some of the last remaining natural habitat near major metropolitan areas in this region to protect wildlife, provide recreational opportunities, and protect the watershed, which is an important source of water for nearby communities.

One of the FWS largest single requests in 2011 will acquire lands in Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Connecticut for the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. The \$6.0 million request will be used to acquire tracts in the Fort River division that will contribute toward the protection of a large grassland project. Recovery and long-term viability of habitats for the upland sandpiper, dwarf wedge mussel, and fish rely on the longest, unobstructed tributary to the Connecticut River in Massachusetts. Tracts in the Nulhegan Basin Division of the northern boreal forest and associated wetland complex and tracts in the Pondicherry Division will provide wildlife-dependent recreation and education opportunities.

The NPS request of \$106.3 million includes \$30.5 million in acquisition management, inholdings,

exchanges, emergency acquisition, and American battlefield grants and \$82.4 million in line-item projects. The NPS projects address the protection of high priority natural, cultural, and historical properties. The request includes \$6.0 million for the American Battlefield Protection program, which will be used to provide matching grants to States and local communities to preserve and protect American battlefield sites.



An important acquisition for NPS in 2011 is in the Petrified Forest National Park. The park contains globally significant fossils from the Late Triassic Period. The park is a virtual laboratory offering opportunities for paleontological research and visitor understanding that are unparalleled. The \$7.5 million request would be used to complete acquisition of Twin Buttes Ranch and acquire the Paulsell Ranch. These ranches include numerous significant cultural sites, such as rock art panels, as well as structures from the Puebloan period of the Southwest. This large ecosystem acquisition in Northeastern Arizona consists of 35,960 acres, including nine miles of the Puerco River Riparian Area. The Puerco River Riparian Area provides crucial habitat for many local species, from insects and rodents to raptors and migrating elk.

**NPS State LWCF Grants** – Since 1965, NPS has approved more than 41,300 matching grants to States and Territories for the acquisition, development, and planning of outdoor recreational facilities and lands in the United States. These grants supported the purchase and protection of 2.6 million acres of recreation



lands and the acquisition or development of over 40,000 sites and facilities to provide recreation opportunities in every State and Territory. Approximately 66 percent of the total funds obligated have supported locally sponsored projects that provide close-to-home recreation opportunities.

The 2011 budget includes \$50.0 million for grants for the program, an increase of \$10.0 million over 2010. Excluding administrative costs of \$2.8 million, the budget includes \$47.2 million for grants that will be allocated to States and Territories in conjunction with \$740,000 in mandatory funding paid into the LWCF that is available from certain Outer Continental Shelf leasing revenues.

**Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund** – The 2011 budget includes \$85.0 million, the same as 2010, for grants to States and Territories for the protection of endangered and threatened species. States can pass funding on to municipalities, Tribes, and private landowners to support species conservation partnerships. The 2011 budget includes \$2.9 million for administration, with the balance of funding for the following program components:

*Conservation Grants* – The 2011 Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund program includes \$11.0 million for conservation grants to States that are used to implement recovery actions for listed species, develop and implement conservation measures for candidate species, implement recovery actions for listed species, and monitor species to ensure conservation activities are having the desired outcome.

*Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grants* – The 2011 program includes \$10.0 million for States to assist local governments and planning jurisdictions to develop regional, multi-species habitat conservation plans. Through the development of regional, multiple-species HCPs, local governments and planning jurisdictions incorporate species conservation into local land use plans, which streamlines the project approval process.

*Habitat Conservation Planning Land Acquisition* – The 2011 program includes \$41.0 million in grant funds that will be used by States and non-Federal



entities to acquire habitats from willing sellers and are meant to complement, but not replace, the mitigation responsibilities of HCP permittees. States and Territories receive grant funds for land acquisitions associated with approved HCPs because of their authorities and close working relationships with local governments and private landowners.

*Species Recovery Land Acquisition* – The 2011 program includes \$15.2 million in grant funds that will be matched by States and non-Federal entities to acquire habitat essential for recovery of listed species. Loss of habitat is the primary threat to most listed species. Land acquisition is often the most effective and efficient means of safeguarding habitats before development or other land use changes impair or destroy key habitat values.

*Nez Perce* – The 2011 program includes \$5.0 million to fund water supply and habitat restoration projects in the Snake River basin as part of a settlement agreement with the Nez Perce Tribe, the United States, the State of Idaho, and local communities and water users in Idaho.



**Everglades** – Water in south Florida once flowed freely from the Kissimmee River to Lake Okeechobee and southward over low-lying lands to the estuaries of Biscayne Bay, the Ten Thousand Islands, and Florida Bay. This shallow, slow-moving sheet of water covered almost 11,000 square miles, creating a mosaic of ponds, sloughs, sawgrass marshes, hardwood hammock, and forested uplands. For thousands of years, this intricate system evolved into a finely balanced ecosystem that formed the biological infrastructure for the southern half of the State of Florida. However, early colonial settlers and developers turned the rivers of grass into farmland and communities. By the early 1900s, the drainage process to transform the wetlands was underway.

The remaining Everglades no longer exhibit the functions, richness, and size that historically defined the ecosystem. Most of the negative changes in the ecosystem are a direct result of water management activities to control floods and provide for water supply. Today, water flows to the Everglades are often too much, or too little, and frequently at the wrong times of the year. Water quality throughout south Florida has also deteriorated over the past 50

## RESTORATION OF AMERICA'S GREAT ECOSYSTEMS

*The Everglades remains one of our world's most treasured – and most threatened – places. The Federal government must once again stand up and meet its responsibilities to Everglades restoration.*

*Secretary Ken Salazar  
June 24, 2009*

TREASURED LANDSCAPES (dollars in millions)			
	2010	2011	Change
<b>Ecosystems</b>			
Everglades.....	68.4	74.5	+6.0
California Bay-Delta .....	104.7	155.2	+50.6
Gulf Coast.....	22.1	26.9	+4.8
Chesapeake Bay.....	21.6	31.6	+10.0
<b>TOTAL, ECOSYSTEMS.....</b>	<b>216.8</b>	<b>288.2</b>	<b>+71.4</b>
Great Lakes <sup>1/</sup> .....	[87.4]	[50.2]	[-37.2]

<sup>1/</sup> Non-add. Funded through the EPA budget.

years. More than one half of the wetlands that act as natural filters and retention areas are gone. Some untreated urban and agricultural storm water is sent directly to natural areas and estuaries. Too many nutrients are entering the Everglades that favor invasive species at the expense of native species adapted to this unique environment.

Despite this damage, the Everglades is still a treasured landscape. The Department, through NPS, FWS, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, is a key player in restoring this ecosystem. In 2011, the budget includes \$74.5 million, an increase of \$6.0 million over the 2010 enacted level for restoration of the Everglades.

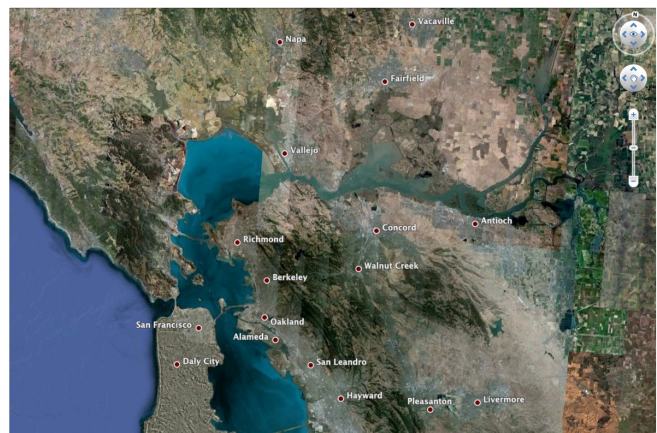
Included in the request is \$8.0 million for the Modified Water Deliveries program, a decrease of \$400,000 from the 2010 enacted level. This ecological restoration project will improve the quantity, quality, timing, and distribution of fresh water to the Everglades National Park. Funding supports construction of the one-mile bridge on the Tamiami Trail, the largest construction project in NPS history and a key component of the Modified Waters Delivery Project. The project will restore more natural water flow to Northeast Shark River Slough, a portion of Everglades National Park, which Congress added in 1989; while still allowing the Trail to serve its important transportation function for the people of the State of Florida. The level requested, along with existing balances, covers all of the obligations in 2011 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to keep the project on track for completion in 2013.



The 2011 request also includes \$12.3 million for FWS ecological services in South Florida, an increase of \$1.8 million over the 2010 enacted level. In 2011, FWS will take action that will help to restore the

ecosystem, including: develop conservation plans and strategies to protect imperiled species such as the Florida panther, sea turtles, and various avian species; undertake recovery actions in support of 67 listed species in south Florida through monitoring species health and addressing threats such as the Burmese python, an invasive species that is quickly expanding its range in Florida; and study the potential distribution and impact of environmental contaminants found in former agricultural lands that are being restored to their original wetland state.

**California Bay-Delta** – On December 22, 2009, the Administration announced a new Interim Federal Action Plan for the California Bay-Delta. The plan noted that the Bay-Delta is in crisis and further described the current status as follows: “... the ecosystem has reached a point of collapse, with imperiled fish species at all-time low population levels and threats from climate change and associated sea-level rise, seismic risks, and other stressors—such as pesticides, pollutant discharges, and invasive species – underscoring the system’s vulnerability.” Good quality water and water availability for irrigators, fishers, and other users are also at risk due to a continuing multi-year drought.



The Administration announced in the Interim Plan that it is giving priority attention to Bay-Delta water issues in an aggressive and coordinated way because the Sacramento/San Joaquin River Delta-San Francisco Bay Estuary is among the most important ecosystems in the Nation. The Bay-Delta is the hub of the Nation’s largest water delivery system, providing drinking water to 25 million Californians. It sustains about \$400 billion in annual economic activity, including a \$28 billion dollar agricultural industry and recreational opportunities. Until recently, it had supported a thriving commercial



and recreational fishing industry. The closure of the commercial salmon fishing season in 2009 is estimated to have caused the loss of 2,690 jobs and \$279 million, as cited in the April 21, 2009, proclamation by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, "State of Emergency – Chinook Salmon." The Bay-Delta is home to 55 species of fish and 750 species of plants and wildlife that are in need of protection from the consequences of drought, climate change, and urbanization.

The Interim Plan is the result of a Memorandum of Understanding signed by six Federal agencies – Interior, Commerce, Agriculture, the Army, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Council on Environmental Quality – that established a Federal Leadership Committee to coordinate the Federal response to the California water crisis and to develop the Interim Plan. The Interim Plan calls for:

- Committing to work closely with the State of California and local authorities.
- Promoting science-based decisions.
- Ensuring effective performance.

Agencies will also:

- Encourage the smarter supply and use of Bay-Delta water.
- Ensure healthy Bay-Delta ecosystems and improve water quality.
- Help deliver drought relief services.
- Ensure integrated flood risk management.

Interior, through the Bureau of Reclamation, FWS, and USGS, has a key role in this plan. In 2011, Interior is requesting \$155.2 million for studies, projects and

other efforts directly in the Bay-Delta, an increase of \$50.6 million above 2010. This request will fund ecosystems, habitat and anadromous restoration efforts, the development of fish screens and fish ladders, efforts to eradicate or mitigate invasive species, water acquisition, increases in water recycling and reuse programs, various water quality and quantity studies and assessments, endangered species programs, land acquisition, and other efforts. These efforts are an integral part of the Administration's plan to develop both short-term actions and a long-term strategy for providing a sustainable water supply and successful ecosystem restoration.

**Gulf Coast Ecosystem** – Interior plays a critical role in the restoration of wetlands along the Gulf Coast of Louisiana and Mississippi. The FWS owns and manages ten national wildlife refuges, totaling 300,000 acres along the coast, which are important to the overall restoration program and can serve as demonstration areas for the rest of the impacted coast. An increase of \$5.0 million will support the restoration of key fish and wildlife habitat along the Gulf Coast of Louisiana and Mississippi. These refuges are some of the last havens for species that depend upon habitats in the Louisiana and Mississippi gulf area. The FWS is an active partner with the many Federal and State agencies working on coastal protection and restoration projects, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, EPA, NPS, and USGS. As a member of the Louisiana and Mississippi Coastal Ecosystem Restoration Working Group, FWS will play a significant role in coastal Louisiana and Mississippi restoration akin to the collaborative role played in Everglades restoration efforts. A detailed scientific assessment on the coastal refuges will be completed by FWS to identify the land-building restoration measures that will sustain resources into the future, taking into consideration sea-level rise and other potential impacts of climate change.





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The national wildlife refuge system manages a considerable portion of this area as coastal marsh that needs restoration and protection from sea level rise and impacts of storms and climate change. Key plant and wildlife species must be inventoried and monitored to document impacts on their status as habitats change and as the basis for planned restoration efforts. Significant oil and gas reserves with active production and seismic exploration occur on these refuges. Oversight is needed to avoid negative impacts to these sensitive marsh and coastal habitats.

The requested funding will directly contribute to FWS' efforts to design and implement an accelerated Gulf Coast restoration program. It will enable FWS to work with partners to develop shared scientific and technical capacity for biological planning and conservation design to address landscape-scale conservation issues and the associated impacts on fish and wildlife resources along the northern Gulf Coast in Louisiana and Mississippi. The ability to understand, design, and drive conservation across broad scales is fundamental to the ability to successfully restore sustainable ecosystems and address climate change along the northern Gulf Coast.

Funding will also be used to facilitate development of a spatially-explicit decision-support tool that identifies focused geographic priorities for coastal Louisiana and Mississippi to achieve sustainable landscape level restoration, while maximizing the best use of human, fiscal, and natural resources. This tool will incorporate key information, including Federal lands, fish and wildlife trust resources, and other information that will allow the Service and its partners to identify those areas which exhibit the highest probability for sustainable restoration and greatest contribution to trust resource conservation and protection. From this, the most feasible restoration strategies will be applied across the spectrum of prioritized landscapes for multiple-agency actions.

*We at the Department of the Interior are proud to have joined with our partners at all levels of government and the private sector to move forward with President Obama's vision to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay.*

**Secretary Ken Salazar**  
**September 10, 2009**

**Chesapeake Bay** – The Chesapeake Bay watershed encompasses 64,000 square miles, parts of six States, and the District of Columbia. The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in North America and is ecologically, economically, and culturally critical to the region and the country. Nearly 17 million people live in the watershed, and it is also home to more than 3,600 species of fish, plants, and animals, from blue crabs to bald eagles. The region includes countless cultural and historical sites from Civil War battlefields to America's first permanent European settlement at Jamestown, Virginia.



On May 12, 2009, President Obama signed an Executive Order on Chesapeake Bay Protection and Restoration. The Order calls for a renewed shared leadership action to control pollution, protect and restore habitat, improve natural resource management, and accelerate water quality and ecosystem health improvements. The efforts of the past 25 years to reduce pollution and clean up the Bay and its tributaries have yielded some progress. However, the Chesapeake Bay and many of its tributaries remain in poor health. The Bay continues to be polluted, primarily by nitrogen and phosphorus from agriculture, and runoff and discharge from cities, towns, and wastewater plants. Airborne contaminants also adversely impact the Bay. Human activity and development has transformed the natural landscape. Forests and wetlands that previously filtered pollution and provided wildlife

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habitat have been lost to development. Farms have been converted to subdivisions, and suburban sprawl has led to a proliferation of roads, parking lots, and rooftops, intensifying runoff and non-point source pollution. Overharvesting of fish and shellfish has contributed to the decline of key species in the Bay. These declines have had a very significant impact on traditional Bay uses, like oystering and crabbing. Populations of oysters are at an all-time low, and habitats such as underwater grass beds and wetlands are degraded. Climate change is anticipated to result in increased sea levels, temperature changes in the water and air, and increased frequency and intensity of storms.

The 2011 budget includes \$31.6 million, an increase of \$10.0 million over the 2010 enacted level to expand the Department's efforts to conserve and protect the Bay's resources within the budget requests for USGS, FWS, and NPS.

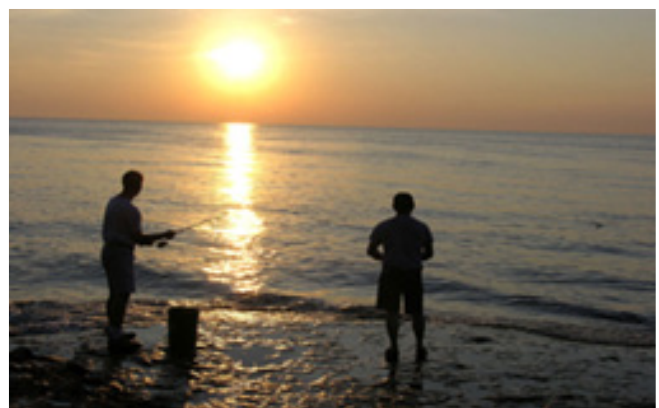
The 2011 budget for USGS includes an increase of \$3.6 million to restore water quality by monitoring and assessing the effectiveness of current practices to reduce nutrient and sediment loads from agricultural and urban/suburban lands in the Bay watershed; restore habitats and sustain species by documenting the occurrence of emerging contaminants in water, sediment, and fish, evaluating potential causes of "intersex" conditions of fish and fish kills; and work with FWS on potential management solutions and interact with EPA on implications for reducing toxic discharges in the Bay watershed.

The 2011 budget for FWS includes an increase of \$5.0 million and a redirection of \$394,000 in base funding to restore habitats for priority species on and off FWS lands, investigate wildlife impacts from contaminant discharges, develop and expand migratory bird monitoring protocols and fish surveys, and expand opportunities for Chesapeake Bay-oriented wildlife observation and public education.

The 2011 budget for NPS includes an increase of \$1.0 million to provide matching grants to State, local, and non-governmental partners throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed, particularly along the Bay, Susquehanna River, and other major tributaries. This funding will be used to facilitate additional or expanded public access to the Bay and tributaries. In addition, NPS will assist partners in enhancing public interpretation and education of watershed resources and stories, strengthen heritage tourism within the region, and promote citizen stewardship of the Bay.

**Great Lakes** – The environment of the Great Lakes region is blessed with wide swaths of forest and wilderness areas, rich agricultural land, hundreds of tributaries, thousands of small lakes, and extensive mineral deposits. The region's sand dunes, coastal marshes, rocky shorelines, lakeplain prairies, savannas, forests, fens, wetlands, and other landscapes contain features that are globally unique. The region's glacial history and the influence of the lakes themselves create unique conditions that support a wealth of biological diversity, including over 200 globally rare plants and animals and more than 40 species that are found nowhere else in the world. The Great Lakes environment supports a world-class fishery, with an estimated 180 species of native fish.

Yet for all their size and diversity, the Great Lakes are not as resilient as they appear, and they face a number of serious challenges. History has shown that the Great Lakes are highly sensitive to biological and chemical stresses. The most significant of these include toxic substances, invasive species, non-point source pollution and near shore impacts, and habitat and species loss. Better information about mitigating these effects is also necessary to guide decisionmaking. Collectively, these problems have seriously compromised the environmental health of the Great Lakes. As a result, there is a new sense of urgency for action to address the highest priorities for restoring and protecting the Great Lakes.



As part of the Great Lakes initiative led by EPA, Interior bureaus are instrumental in helping to restore this ecosystem. The 2011 EPA budget request includes \$300.0 million for the Great Lakes initiative, \$175.0 million less than the 2010 level. Of this amount, \$50.2 million is planned for allocation to Interior bureaus for a variety of activities. The FWS would receive \$32.5 million primarily for habitat



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and wildlife protection and restoration, invasive species, and toxic substances. The USGS would receive \$10.3 million principally for accountability, education, monitoring, evaluation, communication and partnerships, and for near shore health and non-point source pollution. The NPS would receive \$4.7 million mainly for habitat and wildlife protection and restoration and for invasive species. The BIA would receive \$2.8 million for habitat and wildlife protection and restoration. Ongoing programs in the three bureaus will provide \$66.7 million in 2011 for Great Lakes activities, an increase of \$761,000 over 2010.

## PROTECTING, PROMOTING, AND RESTORING TREASURED LANDSCAPES

*As Americans, we possess few blessings greater than the vast and varied landscapes that stretch the breadth of our continent. Our lands have always provided great bounty: food and shelter for settlers and pioneers, the raw materials that grew our industry, the energy that powers our economy. What these gifts require in return is our wise and responsible stewardship.*

*President Barack Obama  
March 30, 2009*

As manager of nearly one-fifth of the land area of the United States, the Department protects America's landscapes. Its lands and waters host more than 450 million visitors per year. The work of Interior's 70,000 employees is complemented by the efforts of 242,000 volunteers. While providing recreational opportunities and protecting significant natural and cultural resources, the lands and waters Interior manages also generate \$14 billion annually



in revenue from commercial, recreational, and other uses. These lands and waters maintain historic uses and support the livelihood of millions of Americans. A recent economic study reports that in 2008 Interior lands and waters generated \$370 billion in benefits nationwide.

Among the vast array of treasured landscapes that the Department manages are units of the National Landscape Conservation System, the national wildlife refuge system, and the national park system. Respectively, BLM, FWS, and NPS protect these treasured lands.

**National Landscape Conservation System** – The National Landscape Conservation System is comprised of over 27 million acres, including 37 national monuments and national conservation areas, 223 wilderness areas, 545 wilderness study areas, 69 wild and scenic rivers, and 16 national scenic and historic trails. Units include red-rock deserts, rugged ocean coastlines, deep river canyons, and Alaskan tundra. These areas support extensive recreational use, cultural and paleontological research, and preserve awe-inspiring landscapes. The NLCS units offer primitive backcountry experiences, and others are just minutes from major metropolitan areas.

The Omnibus Land Management Act of 2009 added nearly 929,000 acres of wilderness, one national monument, four national conservation areas, 362 miles of wild and scenic rivers, and 40 miles of national scenic trails.

The budget for the National Landscape Conservation System in 2011 is \$65.4 million, a net increase of \$1.3 million over the 2010 enacted level. These amounts represent the recurring base funding for the system; they do not include one-time funding. The net increase includes an increase of \$414,000 in the National Monuments and National Conservation Areas subactivity for high-priority operating needs. There are offsetting reductions of \$198,000 in this subactivity for Interior-wide management efficiencies. The budget also includes an increase of \$1.3 million in the Wilderness Management subactivity targeted to new wilderness areas designed by the Omnibus Land Management Act. There are offsetting reductions of \$201,000 for Interior-wide management efficiencies.

**National Wildlife Refuge System** – The refuge system is comprised of 551 units that are in every State in the Union. This network of 150 million

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acres of land and waters, including nearly 53 million acres of submerged land in four marine national monuments, provides habitat for many species of fish and wildlife, sanctuary for threatened and endangered species, and secure spawning areas for native fisheries. There are also numerous recreational opportunities on refuges.

The 2011 budget for the national wildlife refuge system is \$499.5 million, a net reduction of \$3.3 million. The 2011 budget increases refuge climate science inventory and monitoring by \$8.0 million, and adds \$2.0 million for youth programs. Reductions include unrequested congressional increases totaling \$4.5 million, discontinuation of the \$6.5 million Challenge Cost Share program, Interior-wide management efficiencies that are expected to achieve savings of \$4.6 million in the refuge program, and FWS specific efficiencies of \$459,000.

**National Park System** – The National Park Service operates 392 units, comprised of 84 million acres in 49 States, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The park system celebrates the Nation’s history by interpreting and preserving natural and cultural sites and providing opportunities for respite, reflection, and outdoor recreation. The system includes sites that are a testament to the early ideals of conservationists who strove to protect treasured landscapes. John Muir,

for example, was a driving force in the preservation of the Yosemite Valley.

The 2011 budget for operation of the national parks is \$2.3 billion, an increase of \$35.3 million above the 2010 level. New funding for operations will address mission-critical needs at existing and new parks, improve visitor services, protect national icons, and maintain the facilities and investments restored with Recovery Act funds. Increases for Service-wide programs will be used for resource stewardship projects nationwide and will also facilitate collaborative efforts to improve administrative services and employee development. These increases are offset by reductions of \$13.8 million in Interior-wide management efficiencies that are expected to achieve savings.





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## WILD HORSE AND BURRO INITIATIVE

The 2011 budget request will begin implementing a new national management strategy for protecting America's iconic wild horses and the open lands on which they roam.

Since 1971, when Congress passed the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act, the BLM has proudly managed the Nation's wild horses and burros. In four decades under BLM protection, wild horse populations that were once fast disappearing from the American scene have rapidly grown.

This success in reviving wild horse populations, however, has created a new set of challenges for BLM



and the landscapes they manage. The total wild horse and burro population is now approximately 69,000, including 37,000 roaming the public lands, and 32,000 held in expensive short-term corrals and long-term pastures. With no natural predators, wild horse populations on the range continue to grow. This population growth has been a contributing factor in steadily increasing program costs – from \$36.4 million in 2007, to \$51.6 million in 2009, to an estimated \$66.1 million in 2010. Additionally, arid western lands and watersheds cannot support a population this large without significant damage to the environment that threatens all wildlife species that depend on healthy rangelands, including wild horses. To prevent starvation of animals and to protect the lands from over-grazing, the BLM each

year moves thousands of wild horses to short-term corrals and long-term pastures.

The BLM's management strategy up to this point has primarily focused on removing animals from the range in an effort to reach appropriate management population levels, offering these gathered animals up for adoption, and placing any unadopted horses in holding facilities. However, declining adoption rates over the last several years and rising feed and fuels costs have led to skyrocketing holding costs. The current path of the wild horse and burro program is not sustainable for the animals, the environment, or the taxpayer.

To respond to these challenges, on October 7, 2009, Secretary Salazar announced a new comprehensive long-term plan to put the wild horse and burro program on a sustainable track. Full implementation of the plan requires increased funding in the short term and additional legislative authorities. The plan identifies three management strategies to improve the protection and management of wild horses: managing sustainable herds on western rangelands through the aggressive application of fertility control measures; establishing new wild horse preserves, primarily in the Midwest and East for horses that must be removed from western rangelands; and providing special designations for selected treasured herds in the West.

Wild horse population growth rates must be brought into balance with adoption demand to ensure that the herds on the western rangelands are kept at more sustainable levels. Only by reducing breeding populations will this program come into balance. The Secretary's plan will achieve sustainable populations on the range through far more aggressive use of fertility control than is currently practiced, active management of sex ratios on the range, and possibly the introduction of non-reproducing herds in some existing herd management areas. At the same time, the success of the plan depends on the placement of more animals into good homes by making adoptions more flexible where appropriate.

The BLM will establish a new set of wild horse preserves across the Nation, particularly on the productive grasslands of the Midwest and in the

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East. Siting these preserves in areas outside the western States is necessary because water and forage are extremely limited in the West, and drought and catastrophic wildfire threaten both rangeland and animal health. These new preserves will be located on lands acquired by BLM or partners, and would be home to non-reproducing herds of wild horses. They will provide excellent opportunities to reduce the number of animals in short-term holding, celebrate the historic significance of wild horses, showcase these animals to the American public, and serve as natural assets that support local tourism and economic activity.

Lastly, the Secretary's plan will showcase certain unique herds on public lands in the West that deserve special recognition. These select herds

would be highlighted with Secretarial or possibly congressional designations. The special designations would highlight the unique qualities of America's wild horses, providing a focal point for publicity, environmental education, and increased eco-tourism that could boost economies and create jobs in nearby rural communities.

The 2011 BLM budget request includes \$75.7 million, an increase of \$12.0 million for the Wild Horse and Burro Management program to support implementation of the Secretary's plan. In addition, the BLM budget includes an increase of \$42.5 million in land acquisition funding to plan and purchase land for one wild horse preserve. The plan will enable BLM to achieve appropriate management population levels on the range by 2013.