



2010 REPORT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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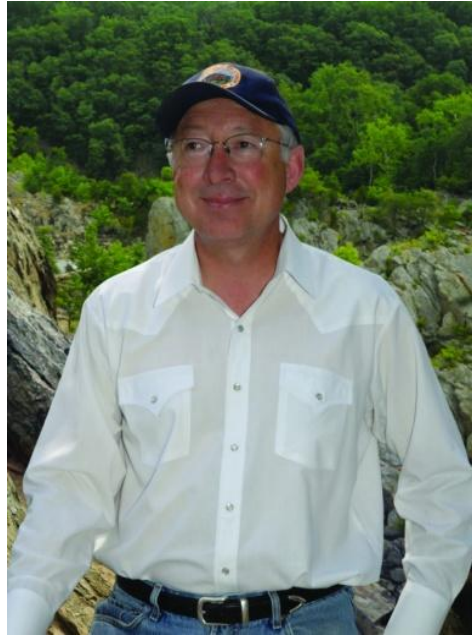


Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, Paria Canyon, Arizona

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY

President Obama has challenged us to out-innovate, out-educate, and out-build our global competitors so we can win the future for our children. At the Department of the Interior, we are proud to help our nation fulfill President Obama's vision and to help our nation harness its potential.

The Department of the Interior plays a leading role in our nation's quest to build a clean energy economy - creating American jobs and driving innovation - by promoting renewable energy on our nation's public lands. We are working to help our economy grow and businesses flourish by ensuring that oil and gas is developed safely and responsibly. We are ushering in a new era of conservation to protect the lands, wildlife, history and culture that define us as a people. And we are empowering our nation's first Americans by helping to build stronger, safer and more prosperous tribal communities.



For the Department of the Interior, 2010 was marked by tragedy and triumph. On April 20th, the Macondo well exploded, killing 11 men and spilling millions of barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico. From across the country, more than 1,000 Interior employees responded to the crisis and fought to protect the Gulf Coast's shorelines and wildlife from the impacts of the oil spill. Our work in the Gulf is far from over, and our agencies remain fully engaged in helping restore the coast and its treasured resources.

In addition to its impacts on Gulf Coast communities and natural resources, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill revealed major shortcomings in industry's offshore drilling safety practices and in federal oversight of offshore drilling operations. To confront these challenges, Interior has launched the most aggressive oil and gas safety and reform agenda in U.S. history, raising the bar on offshore drilling safety, practices and technology and ensuring that development is done in the right way and in the right places.

We made great progress on the renewable energy front in 2010 as well. As part of this Administration's commitment to building a safe, secure energy future, Interior is unlocking our nation's renewable energy potential in unprecedented ways. We approved more than a dozen solar, wind, geothermal and transmission projects in 2010, including nine solar energy projects in the deserts of Nevada and California. Combined these projects will power more than one million homes and create thousands of jobs.

As we push forward with our energy agenda, we are also taking big strides toward implementing a conservation agenda for the 21st century. In 2010, we welcomed new national wildlife refuges and parks into the system, established forward-thinking protections for lands and wildlife, and implemented community-driven, science-based conservation strategies that take into account entire ecosystems and working landscapes. We also kicked off President Obama's America's Great Outdoors Initiative, holding 51 public sessions across the country and hearing from more than 100,000 Americans on how we can promote and support innovative community-level conservation efforts and how we can reconnect Americans - especially our youth - to the outdoors. Soon we will be delivering a report to the President that lays out a vision of an enduring conservation ethic for the 21st century.

2010 was also an historic year for the Department and Indian Country. We saw the historic passage of the Cobell settlement, honorably and responsibly addressing long-standing injustices regarding the U.S. government's trust management. The injection of several billion dollars into Indian Country through the settlement has the potential to profoundly change and improve the administration of American Indian trusts and free up land for the benefit of tribal communities. The President also signed into law four Indian water rights settlements, totaling more than \$1 billion, that will help deliver clean drinking water to Indian communities and provide certainty to water users across the West. And, along with President Obama, we hosted the second White House Tribal Nations Conference and renewed our pledge to carry out our agenda of reconciliation and empowerment for Indian nations.

This report provides a summary of these activities, as well as many others that Interior undertook in 2010.

As we look to the future, Interior has a vital role to play in passing on a better future to our children and our grandchildren. In every corner of the country, the employees of the Department of the Interior are working to grow our clean energy economy, protect our resources and unleash the talent and ingenuity of our young people.

The strength of our economy, the strength of our spirit and the strength of our union are all tied to what we do here at the Department of the Interior. We are dedicated to upholding the trust of the American people, improving our stewardship of the nation's resources, and strengthening our delivery of programs and services in the years ahead. Together, we can tackle the most pressing challenges of our day and win the future.

Respectfully,

Ken Salazar
Secretary of the Interior

BUILDING A SAFE, SECURE ENERGY FUTURE

Standing Up a Renewable Energy Economy

Spurring Onshore Renewable Energy Development

In 2010, the Department of the Interior continued to unleash the potential of renewable energy resources on federal lands in unprecedented ways. Interior developed a “fast track” process to focus resources on completing thorough environmental reviews and permitting for promising projects in time to take advantage of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds.

Through this historic Department-wide effort, 12 renewable energy projects were approved in 2010 on public lands. When completed, these projects will produce almost 4,000 megawatts of energy, generate enough energy to power over 1,200,000 American homes, and create thousands of construction and operational jobs. These commercial-scale initiatives include the first solar projects *ever* permitted on public lands and what will be the largest solar project in the world.



One of 97 wind towers in the Milford Wind Corridor, UT

Interior’s 2010 onshore renewable energy accomplishments include:

- **Solar:** The Secretary green-lighted nine commercial-scale solar energy plants in California and Nevada that will provide nearly 3,700 MW of power—enough to power more than 1,100,000 homes—and are expected to create about 7,300 new jobs. Several of these projects will take advantage of \$7 billion of Recovery Act incentives, either through the Treasury grant program or the Department of Energy (DOE) Loan Guarantee program.



Secretary Salazar signs approval of a large-scale solar energy project

- **Onshore wind:** Interior approved a 150-megawatt wind project in Nevada that will generate enough energy to power about 52,500 homes. Interior manages 20.6 million acres of public lands with wind potential in 11 western states. To date, 29 wind development projects have been permitted on public lands, with an installed capacity of about 580 MW.
- **Geothermal:** Two newly-approved geothermal projects in Nevada together will produce about 79 MW of energy, enough to power about

79,000 homes. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) also offered its first geothermal lease in Colorado and approved drilling plans for five geothermal wells on leases in Idaho.

Promoting Onshore Solar Energy Development

- **Solar Demonstration Zone.** The Departments of the Interior and Energy joined forces to develop a 25-square mile Solar Demonstration Zone on federal lands in Nevada to demonstrate cutting-edge solar energy technologies.
- **Landscape-Level Planning.** In December, Secretary Salazar and Energy Secretary Chu announced the release of a joint Draft Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, a comprehensive environmental analysis that has identified proposed 'solar energy zones' on public lands in six western states most suitable for environmentally sound, utility-scale solar energy production.



Solar array, California

Encouraging Offshore Renewable Energy Development

- **Issuing the First U.S. Offshore Commercial Wind Energy Lease.** In October, the Secretary signed the nation's first lease for commercial wind energy development on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) with Cape Wind Associates, LLC. The project plan calls for 130 wind turbines with capacity of 468 megawatts that could produce enough energy at average expected production to power more than 200,000 homes in Massachusetts.
- **Establishing an Atlantic Offshore Wind Energy Consortium.** The Secretary and Atlantic Governors signed a Memorandum of Understanding establishing the Atlantic Offshore Wind Energy Consortium to promote the efficient, orderly and responsible development of wind resources on the Outer Continental Shelf. State signatories are Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.
- **Launching "Smart from the Start" Atlantic Wind Energy Initiative.** Interior launched an initiative for the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf to facilitate and accelerate the siting, leasing and construction of new wind energy projects. The initiative includes identifying priority Wind Energy Areas for potential development, improving coordination with local, state, and federal partners, and speeding the leasing process.
- **Creating an Offshore Renewable Energy Office.** The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) created an office unit in Virginia focused on offshore renewable energy—the first-ever dedicated to specifically support this type of development.

Increasing the Renewable Energy Potential of Hydropower

The Secretary directed Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, the nation's second largest hydropower producer, to evaluate new capacity and efficiency increases at existing projects that could help realize undeveloped power potential. Actions in 2010 included:

- **Assessing Resources.** The Hydropower Resource Assessment Study identified 192 sites that have the potential to add 260 MW of capacity to increase the nation's energy portfolio. The Hydropower Modernization Initiative Study assessed feasibility of capacity increases and upgrades at existing Reclamation facilities, identifying 36 plants with capability to increase efficiency 3 percent or more.



The Hoover Dam spans the Colorado River at the border between Nevada and Arizona.

- **Increasing Efficiency.** With the Department of Energy, Reclamation initiated an optimization program to increase useful capacity of its power plants by operating them at more efficient levels. The systems will automatically determine the best operating point for generators, increasing capacity by 27,000 KW.

Reusing Disturbed Lands for Renewable Energy Production

The BLM initiated the Arizona Restoration Design Energy Project to identify disturbed or previously developed sites that could potentially be made available for reuse for renewable energy projects, including brownfield sites, mine sites, former landfills, and damaged sites with limited restoration potential. About 80 sites were identified through a public process and a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is planned for release in 2011.

Responsibly Developing Conventional Energy Sources

Approving New Onshore and Offshore Oil and Gas Leases and Development

In 2010, the BLM held 29 onshore oil and gas lease sales, offering 1,643 parcels covering 3.2 million acres. These sales generated more than \$212 million in revenues that are shared between the states and the Federal Government. BLM has announced a schedule for 2011 of 36 lease sales for oil and natural gas on U.S. public lands in mostly Western states.

These sales included 190 tracts of land totaling 1.8 million acres, which were offered in an August lease sale for oil and gas parcels in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A). The tracts were areas of known development potential closest to existing oil and gas infrastructure and ensured continued protection for critical migratory bird and caribou habitat. Aside from the 190 tracts offered, there are 239 authorized oil and gas leases totaling approximately 2.2 million acres in the

NPR-A. In 2010, the BLM received 4,158 applications for permit to Drill (APDs) and processed 5,381 applications.



Secretary Salazar and Coast Guard Rear Admiral Paul Zukunft with BP employee

BOEMRE offered 37 million offshore acres on the Outer Continental Shelf in the Central Gulf of Mexico Planning Area for oil and gas lease sales. About 2.5 million acres received bids, with BOEMRE collecting nearly \$950 million in high bids for the acreage. Lease sales in the Western and Central Gulf of Mexico under the 2007-2012 program are currently scheduled to begin within the year, after BOEMRE completes appropriate environmental analyses that take into account effects of the

Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Analyses and public meetings will help determine

if additional lease sales in these areas should proceed as part of the 2012-2017 program.

Reforming Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing and Development

Citing the need to improve certainty and order and to restore balance in onshore oil and gas leasing, in January the Secretary and the BLM Director announced leasing reforms to reduce conflicts that could lead to protests and litigation. Consistent with this directive, the BLM issued new guidance and implemented policies that provide for preparation of Master Leasing Plans in sensitive areas.

Developing a Strong Oil and Gas Leasing Strategy for the Outer Continental Shelf

In March, based on a year-long effort, President Obama and Secretary Salazar announced a comprehensive strategy for offshore oil and gas development and exploration for 2012-2017, turning the page on the previous Administration's proposed 5-year plan to open up the entire Outer Continental Shelf for possible oil and gas development. In December, the Secretary announced an updated oil and gas leasing strategy for the Outer Continental Shelf for 2012-2017 that reflects lessons learned from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and enables Interior to focus critical agency resources on planning areas that currently have leases for potential future development.

Fast Tracking Transmission Infrastructure for Energy Development

Because the delivery of renewable and traditional energy to the marketplace depends on reliable and accessible transmission and pipeline capacity, Interior is working to site and permit electric transmission projects on federal lands. Interior has already identified and designated more than 5,000 miles of transmission corridors on the lands it manages. In 2010 Interior granted more than 190 miles of rights of way for new major electric transmission lines on public lands in Nevada and Idaho and is currently processing more than 30 applications for major transmission rights-of-way.

Major pipeline and transmission projects approved by Interior in 2010 include:

- **Ruby Pipeline.** The 678-mile pipeline is designed to transport up to 1.5 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day, and represents a \$3 billion investment in new infrastructure to connect natural gas reserves in the Rocky Mountain region with markets in the western U.S.
- **UNEV Pipeline.** This 400-mile common carrier pipeline will transport liquid petroleum products from a refinery near Salt Lake City to the growing cities of Cedar City, Utah, and Las Vegas, Nevada.
- **Southwest Intertie Project North Line.** This approved 275-mile 500kV transmission line will run from Idaho to southern Nevada.

Distributing Revenues from Energy Development on Public Lands

Interior disbursed more than \$1.8 billion to 34 states and more than \$407 million to 34 million American Indian tribes and 30,000 individual Indian mineral owners as part of their share of receipts from onshore and offshore energy production on federal public lands during FY 2010. Interior disbursed another \$4.5 billion from oil and gas revenues to the U.S. Treasury.

Addressing Natural Gas Hydraulic Fracturing on Public Lands

Interior hosted a November forum to identify best management practices that should be used to extract oil and natural gas on public lands, to study the potential impacts of “fracking” and to explore possible commonsense requirements at the permitting stage. About 90 percent of wells drilled on federally managed lands are stimulated by hydraulic fracturing.



Pump unit near Price, Utah

Promoting Responsible Oil Shale Research

In 2010 the BLM initiated and completed a second round of oil shale Research Development and Demonstration applications and nominations that encompassed more responsible provisions, smaller-sized parcels, and requirements regarding water supply, power use, and environmental impacts of commercial-scale development. Three applications were selected for further environmental analysis.

Setting the Gold Standard for Offshore Energy Development

The Deepwater Horizon tragedy in April 2010 resulted in the deaths of 11 oil rig workers and the spilling of more than 4 million barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico. The tragedy also revealed major shortcomings in industry's offshore drilling safety practices, insufficient federal government oversight, and the unpreparedness of industry to contain a deepwater blowout in a timely manner.

In 2010, Interior launched the most aggressive oil and gas safety and reform agenda in U.S. history, raising the bar on offshore drilling safety, practices and technology at every stage of the development process.

Raising the Bar on Drilling Safety, Practices and Technology

- **Instituting New Drilling Safety and Well Control Requirements.**

Permit applications for drilling projects must meet new standards for well-design, casing and cementing, and be independently certified by a professional engineer. An engineer must also certify that blowout preventers meet new standards for testing and maintenance and are capable of severing the drill pipe under the pressures anticipated for the well.



Secretary Salazar observes operations over the site of the former Deepwater Horizon platform.

- **Increasing Safety Requirements.** The Department issued new safety requirements for offshore oil and gas lessees and operators, including requiring the company to certify that they are conducting operations in compliance with all operating regulations and have tested their drilling equipment. The safety requirements also call for third party verifications and testing relating to well casing and cement design requirements, and BOP design and compatibility with each drilling operation.
- **Preparing for a Blowout Scenario.** Oil and gas lessees and operators are now required, when filing for a new drilling permit, exploration plan, or development plan, to show the operator is prepared to deal with a potential blowout and worst-case scenario discharge. The directive reverses a 2003 policy that exempted many offshore oil and gas operations in the Gulf of Mexico from submitting this information.
- **Implementing new Workplace Safety Rules.** In order to reduce the human and organizational errors that lie at the heart of many accidents and oil spills, operators must develop a comprehensive safety and environmental management program that identifies potential hazards and risk-reduction strategies for all phases of activity, from well design and construction, to operation and maintenance, and finally to the decommissioning of platforms.

- **Requiring Idle Iron Shutdowns.** Oil and gas companies operating in the Gulf of Mexico must set permanent plugs in nearly 3,500 nonproducing wells and remove 650 oil and gas production platforms if they are no longer being used.
- **Establishing an Ocean Energy Safety Institute.** The Secretary is establishing an Ocean Energy Safety Institute designed to facilitate research and development, training, and implementation in the areas of offshore drilling safety, blowout containment and oil spill response. The Institute will be a collaborative initiative involving government, industry, academia and scientific experts and will serve to coordinate and institutionalize the lessons and strategies learned from the oil spill.

Reorganizing, Restructuring and Reforming Interior's Ocean Energy Management

Concurrent with offshore safety reform initiatives, Interior overhauled the regulatory agency responsible for overseeing offshore oil and gas operations. The reforms include: dividing the agency's conflicted missions, standing up a stronger regulatory body, creating an internal review unit to root out problems, and expanding the Bureau of Ocean Energy, Management and Enforcement's team of inspectors. The goal is to build an agency with the resources and tools needed to deliver effective, tough, and fair oversight of offshore oil and gas operations. To lead these reforms, President Obama and Secretary Salazar asked Michael Bromwich, a former Inspector General at the Department of Justice, to serve as Director of the newly-established BOEMRE.



A deepwater platform operates in the Gulf of Mexico

- **Deconflicting the Missions.** In May, the Secretary launched a fundamental restructuring of the Minerals Management Service (MMS), including the division of its three conflicting missions into separate entities with independent missions. MMS's inspection, investigation, and enforcement operations (to be known as Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement) will be separate and independent from the agency's leasing and permitting functions (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management). Additionally, the revenue collection, distribution and auditing mission is now housed in the newly-created Office of Natural Resources Revenue within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget. This step effectively walled off the revenue collection arm of the former MMS and ensured that revenue generation could never trump safety or environmental considerations during the permitting and drilling processes. The new framework creates true structural separation of the revenue collection activities from the mineral leasing and regulatory functions previously all performed within MMS.
- **Creating New Investigations Unit.** BOEMRE's Director announced the creation of an Investigations and Review Unit (IRU) within the agency to help expedite his oversight, enforcement and re-organization mandates. The unit will investigate allegations or evidence of misconduct and unethical behavior by bureau employees as well as industry. They will also oversee and coordinate the bureau's internal auditing, regulatory oversight and enforcement systems and programs.

- **Establishing a Categorical Exclusions Policy.** The use of categorical exclusions for offshore oil and gas development was restricted to activities involving limited environmental risk pending a comprehensive review of Interior’s NEPA process. Additionally, Interior announced a new environmental analysis in the Gulf of Mexico to help provide information to guide future leasing and development decisions.
- **Creating an Ethics Hotline.** BOEMRE established a new online and telephone hotline to allow persons to report misconduct and unethical behavior of BOEMRE personnel or industry.
- **Establishing the First-Ever Recusal Policy.** BOEMRE employees must notify their supervisor about any potential conflict of interest and request to be recused from performing official duties in which such a conflict exists. Additionally, BOEMRE inspectors must recuse themselves from performing inspections of former employers for two years.
- **Collaborating with Fellow Agencies.** BOEMRE and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are developing an agreement to collaborate in the environmental analyses for Outer Continental Shelf planning.
- **Recruiting Specialists.** The BOEMRE Director visited five Louisiana and Texas universities to recruit petroleum engineers, inspectors, and interns as part of Interior’s effort to improve regulatory oversight of offshore oil and gas drilling. Following his campus recruitment tour, BOEMRE received more than 500 applications in a two week period.

PROTECTING AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS

Protecting, Promoting, and Restoring America's Treasured Natural Landscapes

Developing a Conservation Ethic for the 21st Century

In April, Interior hosted President Obama and the White House Conference on America's Great Outdoors. Following in the tradition of President Theodore Roosevelt, who held the first White House conference on conservation in 1908, Secretary Salazar, Agriculture Secretary Vilsack, EPA Administrator Jackson and White House Council on



President Obama speaks at the White House Conference on America's Great Outdoors

Environmental Quality (CEQ) Chair Sutley brought together a historic gathering of ranchers

and farmers, sportsmen and women, state and local government leaders, tribal leaders, public lands experts, conservationists, youth leaders, business representatives and others from throughout all 53 states and territories who view the outdoors as integral to their communities. The conference focused on the challenges, opportunities and innovations surrounding modern-day land conservation and the importance of reconnecting Americans and American families to the outdoors.

At the conference, President Obama signed a Presidential Memorandum establishing the America's Great Outdoors Initiative to promote and support innovative community-level efforts to conserve outdoor spaces and to reconnect Americans to the outdoors.



Boaters splash through Egelhoff's Rapids at Niobrara National Scenic River, Nebraska

Following the conference, the Administration held 50 public listening sessions around the country. The listening sessions focused on topics ranging from supporting community-based conservation efforts to reconnecting the nation's youth to the outdoors to the unique perspectives and contributions of Indian tribes in managing natural resources. A report to the President is expected in early 2011.

Designating New National Trails

In 2010, Secretary Salazar designated 31 trails in 15 states as national recreation trails, adding more than 716 miles to the National Trails System. The new trails include Canoe and Kayak Trail, Alabama; Nature Coast State Trail, Florida; Weiser River Trail, Idaho; Kaskaskia River Confluence Trail, Illinois; and the Des Moines River Water Trail, Iowa.



Boy fishing as sun rises in Blanco Wetlands, Colorado

Recognizing the Importance of the National Landscape Conservation System

The Secretary issued a Secretarial Order elevating the BLM's Office of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) and Community Partnerships to the level of a directorate within the agency, reflecting the importance of the 27-million acre system within the Secretary's conservation priorities. The NLCS contains many of the nation's most treasured landscapes,

including scientific, historic and cultural resources, wilderness and wilderness study areas, wild and scenic

rivers, national monuments, national conservation areas, scenic and historic trails, and the Conservation Lands in the California Desert.

Protecting America's Wild Lands

In December, the Secretary issued a Secretarial Order to restore balance and clarity to the management of public lands by establishing a common-sense policy for the protection of backcountry areas where Americans recreate, find solitude, and enjoy the wild. The order directs BLM to engage the public in designating appropriate areas with wilderness characteristics under its jurisdiction as "Wild Lands" and, where designated, to manage them to protect their wilderness values. BLM has not had any comprehensive national wilderness policy since 2003, when the wilderness management guidance in the agency's handbook was revoked as part of a controversial out-of-court settlement between then-Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton, the state of Utah, and other parties.

Protecting our Treasured Landscapes through the Recovery Act

- **Investing more than \$750 Million in National Parks.** The National Park Service invested Recovery Act funding to award contracts for more than 800 projects to repair or replace critical infrastructure including roads, trails and equipment; to increase utilization of renewable and clean energy technology; to close dangerous abandoned mines; and to improve access to many treasured cultural, historic and natural landscapes. More than 260 parks that annually serve over 220 million people are seeing improvements and upgrades, including:

1. More than 1,800 park facilities, including 368 historic structures, repaired



Two kids participate in the Junior Ranger program at Capitol Reef National Park, Utah

2. More than 500 miles of national park trails repaired including 32,000 hours of trail maintenance by more than 100 youth working in Alaska parks
 3. More than 425 miles of park roads repaired and upgraded
 4. More than \$14 million for historic rehabilitation projects at Historically Black Colleges and Universities
 5. More than \$20 million for Abandoned Mineral Lands reclamation and to address public safety issues.
- **Restoring BLM Landscapes.** BLM's 650 projects funded through the Recovery Act include projects to restore critical habitats; address abandoned mines issues; restore and improve lands by addressing deferred maintenance needs; improve public facilities and buildings, roads, and bridges; and provide for trails maintenance. For example, BLM is remediating sites posing an immediate environmental risk in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.
 - **Restoring Thousands of Acres of Wildlife Habitat.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) used the \$280 million it received in Recovery Act funding to restore landscapes across the country by repairing or replacing mission critical infrastructure at refuges and hatcheries, improving visitor access to the nation's treasured landscapes, and restoring habitat for the nation's fish and wildlife. When complete, the Recovery Act will have enhanced or restored nearly 79,000 acres of wetland habitat and more than 169,000 acres of upland habitat and initiated or completed construction of 14 refuge visitor centers. In addition, FWS will reopen 459 miles to fish passage, and repair, improve or replace infrastructure at 225 refuges and hatcheries.

Protecting High Value Conservation Lands

Interior reached an agreement with the Wyoming Board of Land Commissioners to obtain 1,400 acres of state-owned land within Grand Teton National Park in exchange for approximately \$107 million, contingent upon congressional appropriations and possible additional authorizing legislation. Additionally, the BLM acquired more than 22,800 acres of high value conservation lands in eight western states.

Protecting Kansas's Tallgrass Region

Interior announced the creation of the more than 1 million-acre Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area, a new unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System. An example of the public-private collaboration and partnerships envisioned by the America's Great Outdoors Initiative, the area is the product of efforts by the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, private landowners, and other partners to protect the unique and highly diverse area in eastern Kansas known as the Flint Hills Tallgrass Region.



Secretary Salazar and Secretary Sebelius at the groundbreaking ceremony for Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, KS

Protecting the Lands and Waters of Cherry Valley, Pennsylvania

The Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge became the nation's 553rd national wildlife refuge with the purchase of 180 acres in northeastern Pennsylvania. This community-based landscape conservation project will protect up to 20,000 acres for the threatened bog turtle, migratory birds, and other important fish and wildlife species.

Welcoming the Rocky Mountain Arsenal to the National Wildlife Refuge Family

After more than 10 years of a collaborative federal, state and private industry environmental cleanup of the old Rocky Mountain Arsenal (under budget and ahead of schedule) the Secretary joined officials from the U.S. Army and Shell Oil to celebrate the transformation of the Arsenal into a premier urban national wildlife refuge. The 2,500 acres of land were formally transferred from the Army to the Fish and Wildlife Service, bringing the refuge to its final size of more than 15,000 acres. The urban open space is a crown jewel in the Denver metropolitan region.

Expanding Existing Wildlife Refuges

- **Chupadera Wilderness (NM).** Through a donation from the Refuge Friends Group, the 140-acre Chupadera Peak was added to the Chupadera Wilderness at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, New Mexico.
- **Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge (FL).** The 57-acre Three Sisters Springs property - slated for private residential development - at Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge in Florida was successfully acquired for management by the Fish and Wildlife Service through a collaborative effort among the service and numerous governmental and nonprofit partners.
- **Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge (VT).** The 420-acre Dunn Estate was added by donation to the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge in Vermont, part of Interior's international conservation efforts to protect the working landscape of the 14-million-acre Northern Forest. This donation complements an adjoining 460 acres in Canada protected by the Province of Quebec.

Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay

Interior is one of the lead agencies for a new federal strategy for the Chesapeake Bay region to protect and restore the environment in communities throughout the 64,000-square-mile watershed and its thousands of streams, creeks and rivers. The strategy includes using rigorous regulations to restore clean water, implement new conservation practices on 4 million acres of farms, conserve 2 million acres of undeveloped land, and rebuild oyster populations in 20 tributaries.

Protecting and Restoring the Great Lakes

Interior continues to be a leader in the implementation of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, with nearly \$100 million allocated in FY2010 to the Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, National Park Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs combined. Interior initiatives include: studies of habitat and wildlife protection and restoration, removal of invasive species, restoration of native species, climate change adaptation, monitoring and removal of contaminants and toxic substances, prevention of nonpoint source pollution, and education of the public and partners on restoration efforts.

Serving as Wise Stewards of the Arctic

Interior launched planning initiatives for three important Arctic assets in 2010. The Fish and Wildlife Service began a formal review of its 1988 management plan for the 19-million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The National Park Service is reviewing its 1986 general management plan for the 8.6-million-acre Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve to set broad management goals for the next 15 to 20 years. Additionally, the BLM began its first area-wide, integrated planning process for the 23-million-acre National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska in 2010.

Protecting and Restoring the Everglades

Interior took significant steps toward fulfilling the Obama Administration's commitment to protecting and restoring the Everglades. Those milestones include:

- The National Park Service proposed adding 5.5 miles of bridging to the Tamiami Trail, increasing the total amount of bridge span to 6.5 miles. The additional bridging, if congressionally authorized and funded, would fully restore 100 percent of historic flow to the Northeast Shark River Slough and set the stage for significant environmental benefits for the remaining Everglades.
- At the request of Secretary Salazar and the Administration in 2009, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee once again added the Everglades National Park to the List of World Heritage in Danger, symbolizing both the United States' commitment to the restoration of the Everglades ecosystem and the Administration's efforts to restore the role of sound science in the decision-making process.



Eco Pond at Everglades National Park, FL

Creating a Comprehensive Wildfire Management Strategy

Secretary Salazar, Agriculture Secretary Vilsack, and Homeland Security Secretary Napolitano announced the formation of a federal partnership with state, regional, local and tribal leaders to develop the "Cohesive Wildfire Management Strategy," to address America's wildland fire challenges.

Providing Strong Oversight of Coal Mining Operations

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) implemented immediate and long-term stream protection measures, including initiating a major rulemaking to minimize damage to streams and require restoration of streams impacted by coal mining. OSM also increased the number of its oversight inspections of coal-mining operations and took steps to ensure mined lands are properly reclaimed after mining is completed.

Protecting Treasured Resources Through Responsible Natural Gas Development

The BLM completed a landmark agreement between natural gas development project proponent, Bill Barrett Corporation (BBC), and the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) to protect cultural resources, while providing for orderly and environmentally responsible natural gas development on

the West Tavaputs Plateau near Nine Mile Canyon. In addition to reducing the amount of development and surface disturbance included in the original project proposal, the agreement contains a commitment not to construct wells on existing leases in nearby Wilderness Study Areas, and to minimize the amount of surface disturbance in areas that may contain wilderness characteristics. BBC has also committed to additional air quality mitigation measures. The agreement will also benefit the public by providing for improved access to and interpretation of key archaeological sites in Nine Mile Canyon.

Protecting, Promoting and Restoring America's Treasured Cultural and Historic Landscapes

Protecting Colonial-Era Chesapeake Bay Watershed Cultural Landscapes (VA)

The Fish and Wildlife Service protected more than 600 acres of land within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, including lands significant to the early English settlement and plantation eras along the Rappahannock and James Rivers through acquisition of conservation easements and fee title. In addition, the agency entered into an agreement with the Chesapeake Conservancy to conserve significant cultural and historic lands along the Capt. John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

Celebrating the American Revolution—Valley Forge and Independence Hall (PA)

The National Park Service exchanged .87 acres owned by the United States within the boundary of Independence National Historic Park for 78 acres within the boundary of Valley Forge National Historic Park owned by the American Revolution Center (ARC). The acreage added to Valley Forge will be managed and preserved for its cultural and natural values. The parcel of land located two blocks from Independence Hall will be used by the ARC to establish the Museum of the American Revolution. The land exchange is the culmination of Interior's successful resolution in 2009 of a longstanding dispute regarding plans for the park.

Remembering the War of 1812—River Raisin National Battlefield Park (MI)

Interior formally established River Raisin National Battlefield Park to preserve the site of a key battle of the War of 1812 that rallied American forces and eventually led to British forces being withdrawn from the region.

Preserving Free African American History, Pre-Civil War (MA)

The National Park Service used \$4 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to complete the restoration of Boston's African Meeting House, the oldest documented African



Secretary Salazar, St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay, Senator Claire McCaskill at the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis, MO

American church building in the United States and the political, religious and social center of the free African American community in Boston prior to the Civil War.

Celebrating the St. Louis Arch and the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (MO)

The National Park Service co-hosted an international design competition for revitalizing the historic Jefferson National Expansion Memorial. The winning design will enhance programming and improve connections between downtown St. Louis, the Gateway Arch grounds, and the Mississippi River. The Secretary twice visited the memorial to meet with community leaders in support of restoration efforts.

Establishing President Clinton’s Birthplace as National Historic Site (AR)

President Obama signed legislation into law in 2009 authorizing the creation of President William Jefferson Clinton Boyhood Home National Historic Site. The deed for the home was transferred in December and the National Park Service will take possession and begin operations early in 2011.

Commemorating Civil Rights and Farm Labor Struggle (Western U.S.)

The National Park Service began a “special resources study” of sites significant to the life of Latino civil rights leader Cesar Chavez and the farm labor movement in the western United States for possible inclusion in the National Park System, listing on the National Register of Historic Places or designation as National Historic Landmarks.



Secretary Salazar tours the Jefferson memorial in Washington, D.C.

Protecting and Restoring the National Mall

Interior issued the National Mall Plan to protect and restore the National Mall in the nation’s capital. This caps off a planning effort that included input from more than 30,000 Americans in all 50 states. The plan for “America’s Front Yard” sets out 30 objectives for cultural and natural resource protection, visitor information, education and enjoyment, visitor amenities, and public safety and security.

Protecting Wildlife and its Habitat

Protecting and Restoring Gulf Coast Natural Resources after Deepwater Horizon

Interior deployed more than 1,000 employees, including assistant secretaries and bureau directors, to manage on-the-ground response efforts and to help protect at-risk land and wildlife resources after the oil spill. Interior provided experienced leadership in each of the command centers and an early focus on evaluating baseline conditions prior to landfall of oil. Specific actions included:

- **Defending our Natural Resources.** Interior helped organize the Natural Resources Trustees -- both state and federal -- to provide early attention to Natural Resource Damages assessment and response efforts, including identifying an initial set of potential restoration projects.

- **Providing Expertise.** Interior assisted on wildlife rehabilitation efforts, including innovative turtle-related relocation efforts. Interior developed the position of Resource Advisor within the Incident Command which was staffed by natural or cultural resource professionals and ensured that clean-up teams properly cleaned or avoided sensitive areas. Additionally, the Department created the Strategic Sciences Working Group to develop a science-based assessment of the long term effects of the spill on the ecology, economy and people of the gulf.
- **Protecting Migratory Birds.** Interior teamed up with the Agriculture Department and private landowners across eight states to protect and feed birds migrating toward the oil spill zone in the Gulf of Mexico. The Migratory Bird Habitat Initiative created alternative and additional bird habitats to provide healthy food and resting areas for shorebirds, waterfowl and other birds. Approximately 450,000 acres were enrolled in this successful program.
- **Saving Sea Turtles.** The Fish and Wildlife Service worked with state and federal partners and FedEx to move hundreds of sea turtle nests and thousands of sea turtle eggs from beaches in the path of the oil spill in Alabama, Mississippi and the Florida Panhandle to a secure, climate-controlled facility at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Thousands of hatchlings, including Kemp's ridley and loggerhead sea turtles, successfully completed their incubation and were safely released into the Atlantic Ocean.



Baby Sea Turtles

Fighting Invasive Species

- **Banning Importation of the Burmese Python and 8 Other Giant Invasive Snakes.** In January, the Secretary announced the Fish and Wildlife Service would propose a rule to list the Burmese python and eight other giant invasive snakes that threaten the Florida Everglades and other sensitive ecosystems as "injurious wildlife" under the federal Lacey Act. Public comment on the proposed rule was extended in late 2010, and the rule is expected to be finalized in early 2011.
- **Fighting Asian Carp Invasion of the Great Lakes.** The Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and U.S. Geological Survey collaborated with seven other agencies and organizations to prevent the imminent invasion of Asian carp into the Chicago Area Waterways System and the Great Lakes and to protect the \$7 billion Great Lakes fishing industry.
- **Responding to the Western Spread of Invasive Mussels.** Quagga and zebra mussels are among the most economically and ecologically damaging aquatic invasive species. To address the spread of these invasive mussels, the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, composed of 13 federal and 13 non-federal members and co-chaired by the Fish and Wildlife

Service, supported development of the *Quagga – Zebra Mussel Action Plan for Western U.S. Waters* (QZAP), which was finalized in February 2010.

Moving Forward on Wild Horse and Burro Management

In December, the Office of the Inspector General issued the findings of its review of the BLM's wild horse and burro program. The report concluded that the BLM "is doing its best to perform a very difficult job" and found that the agency's gathers of wild horses are necessary and appropriate.

Strengthening Border Security while Protecting Wildlife

Secretary Salazar, along with Secretary Napolitano and Secretary Clinton, is working to protect the border while protecting wildlife. Interior and the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) completed the first interagency agreement to fund environmental mitigation projects to benefit fish and wildlife affected by border security projects in the Southwest, including construction of fencing and other security measures along the U.S. border with Mexico. CBP will fund up to \$50 million over the next few years for mitigation projects.

Promoting and Restoring Native Species and Their Habitats

- **Polar Bear Habitat (Alaska).** The Fish and Wildlife Service designated more than 187,000 square miles of on-shore barrier islands, denning areas and offshore sea-ice in Alaska as critical habitat for the threatened polar bear under the Endangered Species Act.
- **Florida Manatee (Florida).** The Fish and Wildlife Service issued an emergency rule to establish a manatee refuge in Citrus County, Florida, in the waters of Kings Bay, including its tributaries and connected waters.
- **Bison Herds (Midwest).** The National Park Service reestablished bison herds in natural prairie habitats on tribal lands and in Mexico. The new herds derive from bison populations in parks in the Dakotas. Meanwhile, the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve in eastern Kansas saw the first birth of a bison on NPS lands in the tallgrass ecosystem.
- **Sage Grouse Habitat (West).** The Fish and Wildlife Service announced its determination that the Greater Sage-Grouse warrants the protection of the Endangered Species Act but the listing is precluded by the need to address higher priority species first. Interior is developing management plans and strategies to protect this iconic species of the West, including a groundbreaking "breeding bird density map" and a partnership with the Agriculture Department to restore sage-grouse habitats.
- **Kauai Island Species (Hawaii).** In a major step forward in conserving imperiled animals and ecosystems on the island of Kauai, the Fish and Wildlife Service added 48 species unique to the island to the list of threatened and endangered species and designated critical habitat for 47 of them.
- **Bull Trout Habitat (Pacific Northwest).** The Fish and Wildlife Service revised the 2005 critical habitat designation for the threatened bull trout, increasing the number of protected stream miles by five times and more than tripling the acreage of protected lakes and reservoirs.
- **Northern Spotted Owl (Pacific Northwest).**
 - **Advancing the Dialogue in Western Oregon—Collaborative Pilot Projects.** The Secretary brought together diverse and divergent interests in meetings in Oregon and Washington, D.C. to find agreement on collaborative forest management pilot projects in southwest Oregon.
 - **Signing Safe Harbor Agreements.** The Fish and Wildlife Service, the Oregon

Department of Forestry and the Natural Resources Conservation Service signed Oregon's first Safe Harbor Agreement for the Northern Spotted Owl, representing the broadest effort in the state to enhance the contribution of non-federal lands to spotted owl conservation since the owl was listed in 1990.

- **Issuing Recovery Plans.** The Fish and Wildlife Service issued a draft revised recovery plan for the northern spotted owl that calls for stronger habitat protection measures and more active forest management techniques.
- **Whooping Crane (Louisiana).** The Fish and Wildlife Service issued a proposed rule to reintroduce the endangered whooping crane into habitat in its historic range on the state-owned White Lake Wetland Conservation Area in Vermilion Parish, Louisiana.
- **Assessing Fish Habitats (Nationwide).** Through the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Geological Survey provided financial support and technical assistance to the first-ever national assessment of the condition of fish habitats across the United States.
- **Columbia River Salmon (Pacific Northwest).** Columbia River Basin salmon and steelhead listed under the Endangered Species Act benefited from the removal or replacement of ten irrigation diversion dams. These projects, completed in partnership with local landowners, Pacific Northwest states, tribes, and other agencies, improved access to over 26 miles of spawning and rearing habitat in tributary sub-basins in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.



Whooping Crane

Revising the List of Federally Protected Migratory Birds

The Fish and Wildlife Service announced the first revisions to the list of bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act since 1985. This update to the list of federally protected birds reflects the best available science on bird taxonomy and distribution and will help improve management of the nation's migratory birds.

Establishing a New Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council

Secretary Salazar and Agriculture Secretary Vilsack announced the establishment of the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council. The new advisory council will help promote and preserve America's hunting heritage for future generations and provide a forum for sportsmen and -women to advise the federal government on policies related to wildlife and habitat conservation endeavors.

Expanding Hunting and Fishing on National Wildlife Refuges

The Fish and Wildlife Service proposed opening Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge (TX) to big game hunting for the first time and expanding hunting and fishing opportunities at seven other refuges around the country: Modoc (CA), Cape May (NJ), Fort Niobrara (NE), Deep Fork (OK), Bosque del Apache (NM), Rappahanock River Valley (VA), Minnesota Valley (MN) National Wildlife Refuges.

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN, ALASKA NATIVE AND ISLAND COMMUNITIES

Honoring Our Responsibilities to Native Americans and Alaska Natives

Advancing a New Federal Relationship with our Nation's First Americans

In December, President Obama met at the Department of the Interior with hundreds of leaders from the 565 federally recognized tribes in the United States. This was the Administration's second White House Tribal Nations Conference convened since President Obama took office and a reaffirmation of the President's respect for the inherent sovereignty of Indian nations and determination to honor the nation's commitment to American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

Investing in Indian Country: Recovery and Reinvestment Assistance

Thanks to the President's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, nearly \$3 billion is continuing to strengthen tribal communities and putting men and women to work improving tribal roads, schools, and water infrastructure projects. The Bureau of Indian Affairs is investing \$500 million in Recovery Act funding nationwide, including projects to build new homes for nearly 200 American Indian and Alaska Native families and to provide employment opportunities for more than 300 tribal members through on-the-job workforce training programs.



President Obama signs the Claims Resolution Act of 2010

Righting a Historic Wrong—the Cobell Settlement

In December, Congress passed and the President signed into law The Claims Resolution Act of 2010 which includes the historic \$3.4 billion Cobell settlement resolving a contentious 14-year long class action lawsuit regarding the U.S. government's trust management and accounting of individual Native American trust accounts and resources. The injection of several billion dollars into Indian Country through the settlement has the potential to profoundly change and improve the administration of

American Indian trusts and free up land for the benefit of tribal communities. This settlement will also provide new scholarship opportunities for Native Indian students.

Making Unprecedented Progress on Indian Water Rights Agreements

The Claims Resolution Act also contained \$1 billion for four Indian water rights settlements in New Mexico, Arizona and Montana that will bring clean drinking water to some of the most poverty

stricken regions in the nation and provide certainty to water users across the west. Four water rights agreements in a single Congress is unprecedented and the settlements offer a fair resolution to more than 100 years of costly, contentious litigation. Additionally, Secretary Salazar joined Navajo Nation President Shirley in Las Vegas to sign the historic San Juan Navajo Water Rights Settlement that provides a sustainable water supply and will reduce the need for hauling water, improve health conditions on the reservation, and provide a foundation for future economic development in northwestern New Mexico.

Improving Indian Education

Interior's Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) educates more than 44,000 Indian students in 183 schools and two tribal colleges. Secretary Salazar, Education Secretary Duncan and the Bureau of Indian Education Director are working with American Indian educators and national experts to examine educational challenges facing tribal communities and to advance strategies to improve opportunities for American Indian students.



Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Larry Echo Hawk wears an honor quilt as he meets students from the St. Francis school in South Dakota

Initiatives include:

- **Building better schools.** More than \$250 million in Recovery funds will repair, improve or replace deteriorating 62 school structures funded by the Bureau of Indian Education, impacting more than 18,000 students – nearly 40 percent of all Bureau of Indian Education students.
- **Reforming the education agenda.** BIE is taking steps to bring Native languages and cultures back into the Indian education framework and to better serve Indian children.
- **Improving educator quality.** BIE hosted a Summer Institute in St. Louis, Missouri, attended by more than 1,500 educators, focused on high quality professional development in a number of critical education domains (reading, math, leadership, school safety, technology).
- **Creating Employment Opportunities.** The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is partnering with Native American youth to employ youth and build a conservation corps for the 21st century. In 2009, BIA hired 144 youth and – just one year later, through strong outreach and engagement – BIA hired over 1,000 Native American youth that will no doubt be our leaders of tomorrow.

Highlighting Indigenous Peoples through International Efforts

The Secretary and Canada's Minister of the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs signed a Memorandum of Understanding to improve the quality of life of indigenous peoples in the U.S. and Canada through increased cooperation and information sharing. Additionally, Interior was a key agency in the interagency review process that led to the United States decision to support the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Working to Restore Tribal Homelands

Interior broke the logjam on trust land applications and streamlined the process as part of the most substantial overhaul of the Interior's fee to trust process in 50 years. Since 2009, Interior has accepted more than 36,000 acres of land into trust on behalf of tribal nations—a 242 percent net increase from the last administration's eight years.

Building Safer Indian Communities

Violent crime in Indian Country is twice the national average and more than 20 times the national average on some reservations. The majority of calls that BIA and tribal police respond to are related to domestic violence. Secretary Salazar is working with Attorney General Holder and BIA to build safer, stronger Indian Communities. Initiatives include:

- A targeted, intense community-policing pilot program on four reservations that is anticipated to reduce violent crime by more than 5 percent on each reservation by the end of 2011.
- Enhanced community police services to tribal communities in New Mexico, Montana, Wyoming, and the Dakotas. The program, *Operation Alliance*, provided more than 10,000 officer/days of community police services to targeted communities with statistically high crime rates. A revamped recruiting process for Bureau of Indian Affairs law officers increased by 500 percent the number of applicants for those positions, from 10 in 2009 to over 6,000 in 2010, and the filling of all vacant police officer positions (186 total) in 2010—the largest hiring increase in BIA's history.
- Modernized police officer training curriculum and instruction methods at the BIA Police Academy increased the BIA cadet graduation rate from 44 percent to 70 percent. Interior also implemented an expedited bridge officer training program for State-certified police officers to become BIA officers, shaving 14 weeks off deployment time.
- Increased training of BIA and tribal law enforcement officers regarding domestic violence incidents in the tribal communities, including four Domestic Violence Train-the-Trainer Instructor Training Programs to BIA and tribal law enforcement officers.

Targeting Suicide Prevention Among American Indians and Alaska Natives

American Indians and Alaska Natives have a suicide rate that is 75 percent higher than the general U.S. population. Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs, HHS' Indian Health Service and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration have teamed up to launch a series of listening sessions across the country to hear from tribal leaders how the agencies can effectively work within their communities to prevent suicide. This will lead up to a national conference on the topic in early 2011.

Charting a New Path Forward on Indian Gaming Policy

Interior is undertaking a comprehensive review of federal Indian gaming policy. The Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs will undertake a review of issues raised by off-reservation gaming applications, including an examination of current guidance and regulatory standards and consultations with tribes in order to create principled and transparent criteria regarding such

determinations. While it consults and collaborates with tribal leaders in connection with this review, eligible pending applications for gaming on Indian lands will continue to be processed.



President Obama greets tribal leaders at the second White House Tribal Nations Conference

Promoting Tribal Consultation

Throughout 2010, Interior consulted with tribes and formed a tribal workgroup to develop a comprehensive tribal consultation policy. The policy will be the first ever Department-wide policy on consultation, in compliance with the President's December 2009 directive to all federal departments and agencies to develop tribal consultation policies, will honor the government to government relationship, and will enhance the quality of Interior's policy to improve the lives of American Indian and Alaska Native people.

Revising Alaska Subsistence Policy

After a comprehensive review of Interior's subsistence program which provides for a fish and wildlife harvest priority for rural Alaska residents, the Secretary called for significant changes to the program, including adding two subsistence harvesters to the Federal Subsistence Board and directing the board to review all subsistence regulations originally adopted from the State of Alaska. This Secretarial review was the first substantive dialogue with subsistence stakeholders in nearly two decades and provides a template for continuing policy dialogues.

Continuing Efforts to Support Tribal Primacy on Surface Coal Mining Oversight

Interior's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) provided \$1.9 million in grants to tribes to further continued support of tribal efforts to assume primary responsibility for regulation of surface coal mining operations on Indian lands. OSM has provided training and funding to Indian tribes, moving several tribes closer to taking over their own regulatory programs.

Funding to Indian Country from Energy Production

The Department of the Interior disbursed more than \$407 million to 34 American Indian tribes and 30,000 individual Indian mineral owners as part of their share of receipts from onshore and offshore energy production on American Indian tribal lands during FY 2010.

Promoting Renewable Energy in Indian Country

Interior is working to engage tribal governments in national energy priorities, including renewable energy development on tribal lands, which hold a great capacity for solar, wind and geothermal projects. Interior awarded \$5.2 million in renewable energy project grants to 28 tribes and provided direct technical assistance to 32 tribes. In collaboration with the Department of Energy and tribal

communities, Interior is working to identify high priority tribal projects for concentrated agency coordination in 2011.

Supporting Our Island Communities

Restoring White House Involvement in Insular Areas

In April President Obama signed an Executive Order reestablishing the White House as a co-chair, with the Department of the Interior, of the Interagency Group on Insular Areas. The inclusion of the White House helps elevate the importance of insular communities and its issues government-wide, resulting in more effective communication, consultation, and progress.

Preparing for Guam’s Military Relocation

Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) continues to remain engaged with the Department of Defense (DoD) in its relocation of U.S. military personnel and dependents from Okinawa, Japan, to Guam. Consistent with the Administration’s “One Guam” approach, OIA has worked to ensure that resources are available to address civilian needs related to the buildup, such as participating in the Guam project needs assessment led by DoD’s Economic Advisory Committee.

Promoting Renewable Energy in Island Communities

All of the U.S. Territorial areas are 100 percent dependent on fossil fuel for energy generation, and the citizens pay some of the highest energy costs in the country. In the US Virgin Islands, a team of experts from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) is working with local organizations to develop programs, projects and policies to deploy energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies that meet a 60 percent reduction in fossil fuel consumption by 2025. In the Pacific region, OIA hosted a two-day renewable energy summit to develop an interagency agreement with NREL to conduct detailed renewable energy assessments and develop strategic energy plans for American Samoa, Guam and Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands.

Providing First-Ever Gross Domestic Product Estimates for the Territories

OIA collaborated with the Department of Commerce’s Bureau of Economic Analysis to produce the first official estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the territories of American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Knowing the GDP is essential for leaders and the community to gauge changes in economic activity and to make more informed decisions.

Promoting Economic Growth and U.S. Worker Employment in the Pacific

Interior is providing technical assistance to aid the diversification and growth of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) economy and the employment of U.S.-eligible workers. OIA hosted a conference in Saipan with private and public stakeholders to identify growth industries necessary to rebuild the CNMI economy and positions needed for these industries. Currently, there are an estimated 16,304 non-residents holding the majority of jobs in the CNMI.

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES



Groundbreaking for the Delta-Mendota Canal/California Aqueduct Intertie Project

Launching the WaterSMART Initiative

The Secretary and the Assistant Secretary of Water and Science launched a new water sustainability strategy for the United States through a Secretarial Order establishing the WaterSMART Initiative. The “SMART” in WaterSMART stands for “Sustain and Manage America’s Resources for Tomorrow.”

As part of the strategy to ensure adequate water supplies, WaterSMART works to increase available water supplies for agricultural, municipal, industrial, and

environmental uses in the western United States by 350,000 acre feet by 2012. In FY 2010 Reclamation achieved 99 percent (149,264 acre-feet) of its FY 2010 goal (150,000 acre-feet) of water savings toward the 2012 target.

Addressing Future Water Needs through the Recovery Act

The total investment by the Bureau of Reclamation in all Recovery Act projects nationwide is nearly \$1 billion, including funding projects to repair America’s water infrastructure and help address the country’s long-term water challenges. For example:

- In the face of continued drought and significant demands on resources, California was allotted about \$440 million in Recovery Act funding, including \$40 million for drought relief.
- Reclamation is investing \$150 million in rural water infrastructure projects across the United States to improve water availability and quality in rural areas, especially certain Indian reservations. By the close of the Recovery Act, the Bureau of Reclamation will complete projects that will provide access to clean drinking water for over 400,000 people.

Improving Energy Efficiency in Water Deliveries

Water and Energy Efficiency Grants contribute to the sustainability of western water supplies through four task areas: water banks and water markets; water conservation; energy efficiency; and addressing endangered species concerns. 37 projects were competitively selected for funding in FY 2010 and will contribute toward meeting the goal of 350,000 acre-feet of water savings. In addition,

- A number of FY 2010 WaterSMART Grant projects address the connection between water use and energy use. These projects not only achieve water savings, but can also lead to significant increases in energy efficiency by decreasing pumping and reducing the amount of water imported across long distances.
- Through the FY 2010 WaterSMART Advanced Water Treatment Pilot and Demonstration Project Grants, Reclamation makes cost-shared funding available on a competitive basis for projects that accelerate the adoption and use of advanced water treatment. For example, four projects were funded in Southern California that identified energy savings through the reduced cost of pumping from the Central Valley Project and Colorado River.

Inventorying Water Supply and Demand in the West



The Colorado River in Arizona

Interior initiated and funded six comprehensive Basin Studies and two plans of study in eight different basins in the West to provide an inventory of water supply and demand. These studies take into consideration climate change impacts, including water needed to support ecosystems, and report on the factors causing competition over water resources in the West.

Initiating the Yuma Desalting Plant Pilot Run

In May, the Bureau of Reclamation and water agencies in the three Lower Colorado River Basin states of Arizona, California and Nevada began the year-long pilot run of the Yuma Desalting Plant (Arizona) to collect performance and cost data as the plant desalts (reclaims) irrigation drainage water. Desalted water from the plant is delivered to Mexico as part of an international treaty to provide 1.5 million acre-feet annually of water—allowing more Colorado River water to remain in Lake Mead.

Continuing Progress on Colorado River Water Issues

- **Creating Watering Conservation Opportunities in the Desert.** Construction of the 8,000 acre-foot Warren H. Brock Reservoir, which began in November 2008, was completed in the summer of 2010, ahead of schedule and below budget. The Reservoir provides storage space for conserving an estimated 70,000 acre-feet annually of “non-storable” flows currently not captured in the Lower Colorado River system.
- **Improving Glen Canyon Dam Management.** The initial work was completed in 2010 for the 2011 release of two draft Environmental Assessments (EA) affecting dam operations:
 - A draft EA for an Experimental Protocol for High-Flow Releases from Glen Canyon Dam will analyze the effects of implementing a protocol to conduct multiple high-flow experiments from Glen Canyon Dam. The primary purpose of the protocol is to learn, through adaptive management, how to better conserve the limited sand supply to the Colorado River below Glen Canyon Dam and ensure no significant impacts to resources in Grand Canyon National Park.
 - A draft Non-Native Fish Control EA will evaluate a wide range of possible actions that could reduce threats to endangered fish in the Colorado River below the dam.

Promoting Efficient Water Delivery in the Southwest

The concrete lining of 21 miles of the All-American Canal (AAC), which began in 2007, was completed in 2010. This lining will conserve an estimated 67,000 acre-feet per year of Colorado River water by reducing seepage losses. The AAC delivers approximately 3.5 million acre-feet of Colorado River water per year to southern California near the U.S.-Mexico border, provides water for domestic use for nine cities and irrigates more than 450,000 acres of agricultural land.

Promoting International Cooperation on Water

Secretary Salazar and Mexican Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Elvira announced in December the successful completion of an agreement to adjust water deliveries on the Colorado River to areas in Mexico damaged by a devastating earthquake in April 2010. Under the agreement, Mexico will be able to temporarily defer delivery of a portion of its annual Colorado River water allotment while repairs are made to the irrigation system. The deferred water will remain in storage in the United States. Following their meeting in Mexico City, Secretaries Salazar and Elvira announced a commitment to initiate high-priority discussions on a comprehensive long-term agreement between the U.S. and Mexico on Colorado River management.

Addressing California's Drought and Long-Term Water Supply and Environmental Restoration Needs

In 2010 Interior continued to lead the Obama Administration's renewed commitment to restoring California's Sacramento-San Joaquin River Bay Delta while also protecting the reliability of California's water delivery system. The river delta is in a state of environmental collapse that threatens drinking water for 25 million Californians, the Central Valley's agricultural economy and adequate flows to ensure survival of endangered wildlife in the region.



Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, CA

Interior actions in 2010 include:

- In May, Secretary Salazar and Commerce Secretary Locke announced an aggressive interagency plan for developing a single, long term integrated Biological Opinion for the California Bay-Delta as well as near-term scientific initiatives.
- In December, Interior and five fellow federal agencies issued an updated, coordinated federal action plan that calls for the restoration of tens of thousands of acres of marshes, wetlands, and habitat, and construction of a \$13 billion canal or tunnel that would bypass California's Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta to deliver water directly to farm and cities to the south.
- Over the past two years, the Department of the Interior has made historic investments in modernizing California's water structure with over \$500 million in major water projects.
- In the 2010 water year, Interior developed ways to augment water supplies plans as an additional assurance that adequate supplies will be available from the Central Valley Project (CVP) in the 2011 water year. The Bureau of Reclamation increased CVP water supply allocations for agricultural water service contractors in the San Joaquin Valley in March-May of 2010.
- Beginning in late 2009 and continuing through 2010, Interior reinstated flows in a 330-mile stretch of California's San Joaquin River, much of which had been dry for over 60 years.

PUTTING SCIENCE TO WORK AND RESPONDING TO IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Ensuring Scientific Integrity in Departmental Decision-making

The Secretary set a new policy to ensure the integrity of the science throughout Interior's research, reports, decision-making and policy development. The new policy clearly affirms that Interior employees, political and career, should never suppress scientific or technological findings or conclusions. Further, it ensures scientists will not be coerced to alter or censure scientific findings, and employees will be protected if they uncover and report scientific misconduct by career or political staff. The new policy, set in a 2010 Secretarial order, also covers all contractors, cooperators, partners, volunteers, and permittees who assist with scientific activities.

Establishing Regional Climate Science Centers and Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

As the nation's largest land manager, the Department of the Interior has a responsibility to study, prepare for and address current and possible future impacts of climate change on the land, water, ocean, fish, wildlife and cultural resources in departmental areas of concern.

The Secretary's September 2009 Secretarial Order called for establishing eight regional "Climate Science Centers" and a network of 21 "Landscape Conservation Cooperatives" involving federal agencies, local and state partners and the public. The cooperatives are engaged in crafting practical, landscape-level strategies for studying and managing impacts within the eight regions.

In 2010 Interior announced five of the eight planned regional Climate Science Centers (CSCs) around the nation. All are based in/hosted by universities or consortiums of universities, namely: Alaska CSC, University of Alaska; Northwest CSC, Oregon State University; Southeast CSC, North Carolina State University; Southwest CSC, University of Arizona; and North Central CSC, Colorado State University.

The remaining regional centers will be in the nation's Northeast, South Central, and Pacific Islands. The eight CSCs will serve as regional hubs of the National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center, located at the headquarters of Interior's U.S. Geological Survey, which is taking the lead on establishing the CSCs and providing initial staffing.

Interior's bureaus also established nine Landscape Conservation Cooperatives that are fully operational with active steering committees and research initiated.

Secretaries Salazar and Vilsack launched joint Interior-Agriculture scientific research projects that provide early examples of the kind of science and management support that will be generated by Interior's regional CSCs—collaborative science aimed at land managers' needs. These new joint projects study the effects of climate change on freshwater systems and sensitive aquatic species in the northwestern and southeastern United States.

Establishing Strategies for Protecting Fish, Wildlife and Parks from the impacts of climate change

Interior's National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service finalized their strategic climate adaptation plans. The FWS, for example, issued a *The State of the Birds: 2010 Report on Climate Change* that shows hundreds of species of birds could face dramatic alterations in their habitat and food supply. On Earth Day, the NPS launched a new climate change website for communicating the challenges and the actions to respond to these challenges.

Research Milestones:

Advancing Biologic and Geologic Carbon Sequestration:

Scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) crafted a new methodology to assess the potential to store carbon in U.S. wetlands, forests and rangelands ecosystems—and thus reducing emissions of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere—in order to help find ways to mitigate the impacts of climate change. USGS is also conducting research on a number of other fronts related to carbon sequestration, including evaluating potential release of greenhouse gases from Arctic soils and permafrost, and mapping the distribution of rocks suitable for potential mineral sequestration efforts.

Sharing Cutting Edge Mapping to Inform Land Use Decisions

USGS completed the first-ever interactive map of the U.S. land cover. Almost a decade in the making, the map is the first comprehensive, interactive land cover map of the U.S., showing the extent of forests, grasslands, wetlands and other habitats in the entire nation. The map is searchable by state and region and by different levels of detail. Importantly, the map is available to anyone with computer access. One major utility of the map is resource managers can use the information to proactively fill in conservation gaps before habitats are fragmented by development and wildlife endangered to extinction.

Promoting Landsat Continuity and Launching Next Generation Imaging

Interior successfully promoted ensuring the continuity of the Landsat Program so there is no break in the 40-year record of images. The 3 millionth image free of charge was downloaded to a user in August 2010, demonstrating the popularity and accessibility of this program and service to the American public and to the world. Since 1966, Interior has managed science data operations and applications development for Landsat and other national land imaging systems from its U.S. Geological Survey Earth Resources Observation and Science Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. USGS and NASA worked together to develop a National Land Imaging program which provides for a series of Landsat-type missions to continue the nearly 40-year times series of land use change around the globe. The future direction of National Land Imaging shifts the responsibility of these missions to the Department of the Interior.

Putting Science to Work

USGS issued a number of scientific reports in 2010 highlighting the potential consequences of climate change on the nation's and world's wildlife and ecosystems. Subjects include:

- **Mountain Vegetation:** Climate change has had a significant effect on mountain vegetation at low elevations in the past 60 years. This information may help agencies develop regional landscape predictions about biological responses to changes.
- **Southwestern Forests:** If temperature and aridity rise as projected, the report forecasts slower-growing trees, more severe fires, more bark beetle outbreaks, more dead trees, and big changes where various tree species are dominant in the southwest.
- **Dust Impacts on Colorado River Snowmelt.** A NASA-led and USGS co-authored study reported that dust caused by human activities in the southwestern American desert is a contributing factor in speeding up the melting of snow and reducing runoff in the mountains of the Colorado River Basin. Restoring desert soils could lessen impacts of climate change.
- **Disappearing Coastal Wetlands.** Many coastal wetlands worldwide, including several on the U.S. Atlantic Coast, may be more sensitive than previously thought to climate change and sea-level rise projections for the 21st century.
- **Hypoxia Threat in Coastal Waters.** A NOAA-led study with significant input from the USGS reports an increasing prevalence of low-oxygen "dead zones" in U.S. coastal waters and outlines a series of steps that could help reverse the decades-long trend.
- **Polar Bear Habitat Threat.** There is no "tipping point" beyond which loss of sea ice impacting the existence of the polar bear is irreversible. Projected losses of Arctic sea-ice and polar habitat may be reduced if greenhouse emissions are mitigated.
- **Horseshoe Crabs Decline.** A distinct decline in the horseshoe crab numbers along the Atlantic Coast from Maine to Florida and the eastern Gulf of Mexico has occurred that parallels climate change associated with the end of the last Ice Age.
- **Retreating Antarctic Ice Shelves.** Ice shelves are retreating in the southern section of the Antarctic Peninsula, which could result in glacier retreat and sea-level rise if warming continues, threatening coastal communities and low-lying islands worldwide.
- **Retreating Asian Glaciers.** Many of Asia's glaciers are retreating as a result of climate change, impacting water supplies to millions of people, increasing the likelihood of floods that threaten life and property in nearby areas, and contributing to sea-level rise.
- USGS and BLM resumed the 2010 **Bering Glacier field program**, operating a remote research field station on the largest and longest glacier in continental North America.



USGS student volunteer studies the glacial Kuskulana River near Chitina, Alaska

Assessing Western Landscapes' Conditions

The BLM awarded seven contracts for conducting scientific Rapid Eco-regional Assessments to improve understanding of the existing condition of Western landscapes, and how conditions may be altered by ongoing environmental changes and land use demands. BLM also designed several analytical methods to estimate emissions of greenhouse gases and pollutants resulting from BLM management actions, such as mineral development, renewable energy, fire and travel management, or livestock grazing. The BLM reports the emission estimate in BLM land use planning documents.

Assessing the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

Working from BP headquarters in Houston, Texas, the USGS Director led a team of USGS and other federal and academic scientists to accurately assess the volume of spilled oil. USGS scientists provided crucial scientific knowledge and specialized expertise in helping to develop a strategy to contain the oil and cap the well. They also supplied vital technical advice to help guide the decisions of federal authorities, particularly Admiral Allen and Energy Secretary Chu.

Using Science to Address Hazards Worldwide

USGS continued its work to assess the risks posed by earthquakes, volcanoes, floods and other natural hazards, and to respond to a marked series of natural disasters in the U.S. and around the globe. USGS scientists responded to deadly earthquakes that struck Haiti, Chile, Mexico and elsewhere. In the aftermath of the earthquake in Haiti—the deadliest disaster in the history of the western hemisphere—USGS began providing critical science information to federal partners, emergency responders, policy makers, and the media regarding the earthquake, its impacts and its subsequent aftershocks that underpinned relief efforts. Volcano experts continued their support of the Volcano Disaster Assistance Program by working with their colleagues in Iceland (Eyjafjallajökull) and Indonesia (Merapi) on response to volcanic events.

CHANGING HOW THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DOES BUSINESS



Secretary Salazar announces Interior has invested \$21 million into the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project in Seattle, WA

Investing Recovery Act Funds

Interior is investing \$3 billion to create jobs and restore economic growth under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. As the largest investment in public lands since the Civilian Conservation Corps of the New Deal, the Recovery Act provided Interior with a unique opportunity—and challenge—to address longstanding challenges while also leaving a historic legacy for generations to come.

The Recovery Act investment is funding more than 4,400 Interior projects that would not

otherwise have been funded at this time. (The projects were part of existing multi-year capital planning, but were not previously considered to be achievable in the near term.) Interior chose investments based on readiness and job creation potential. The Council of Economic Advisors estimated Interior's Recovery Act projects would create over 32,000 jobs and many thousand more seasonal jobs.

All of Interior's bureaus effectively obligated 100 percent of the Recovery Act funds allocated to them at the end of FY 2010. At year's end, more than \$2 billion of projects were under construction - with no significant instances of waste or fraud, and a 99 percent recipient reporting compliance rate.

Through aggressive management and favorable pricing, Interior experienced savings of more than \$200 million, or nearly 7 percent of Interior's Recovery Act allocation. Interior used the savings to fund more than 50 additional high priority Recovery Act projects across the country, putting additional people to work in ways that will leave a permanent legacy on our public lands and other assets through critical facility improvements, infrastructure repairs, and energy efficiency enhancements.

Reforming Revenue Collection

Interior took major steps toward separating and fundamentally restructuring its mineral leasing, regulatory and revenue collection functions—formerly all part of the former Minerals Management Service. By putting the Office of Natural Resources Revenue within the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget, American taxpayers' interests will be better protected by the improved collection and management of revenues from energy development on our public lands and oceans. The new office will be responsible for collecting and disbursing revenues from energy production on federal and American Indian lands and offshore on the Outer Continental Shelf.

Terminating the Royalty-In-Kind Program

Interior phased out the controversial Royalty-In-Kind (RIK) program that accepted oil and natural gas from producers in lieu of cash royalty payments in favor of a more transparent and accountable royalty collection system. The Secretary had directed termination of the scandal-ridden program in 2009. 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 being appointed Secretary of the Interior.

Opening Government

Interior launched its Open Government plan in April 2010 with a goal of making the Department as open, transparent, and collaborative as possible. A working group made up of employees from throughout Interior created the plan.

Transforming Information Technology

After a year-long effort to develop a strategy to reform and modernize Interior's information technology program, Secretary Salazar signed a Secretarial Order transforming the program to include the migration to 21st century services and practices. The order establishes a single Chief Information Officer for Interior - replacing literally dozens of CIOs in bureaus, regions, and programs - as well as the consolidation of the Interior's IT infrastructure. DOI expects to save taxpayers an estimated \$500 million through the program.

"Walking the Talk" Sustainability Plan

Interior released its Sustainability Plan that outlines Department-wide goals and strategies to lessen its carbon footprint and meet or exceed environmental and energy performance requirements as directed by President Obama. The plan details Interior's efforts to install renewable energy systems at wildlife refuges, parks and science centers around the nation; increase the fuel efficiency of its vehicle fleet to exceed emission reduction goals; and increase use of alternative fuels.

Addressing International Conservation Challenges

In 2010, Interior's Office of International Affairs elevated the profile of and strengthened coordination for Interior's international responsibilities. For more than 100 years, Interior has conducted international activities that:

- support Interior's domestic responsibilities along our northern and southern borders;
- implement Congressionally mandated international programs for migratory birds and species;
- fulfill environmental and scientific objectives with U.S. treaty obligations and foreign policy; and
- ensure that U.S. foreign policy affecting indigenous peoples is consistent with U.S. domestic federal Indian law and policy.

With the International Office, Interior has begun to fulfill the Secretary's goal of strengthening transboundary relationships with Mexico, Canada and Arctic countries.

Improving Acquisitions

In FY 2010, the Department of the Interior achieved \$134.8 million in acquisition savings, exceeding its goal of \$99.5 million and the OMB goal of \$93.7 million. The DOI Acquisition Improvement Plan focuses on Strategic Sourcing; e-Procurement strategies; business processes and practices; cost/price analysis; contract reforms; and professional certifications for the workforce. Interior achieves savings by working collaboratively across bureaus to leverage the collective buying power of the Department.

Employing Veterans

Interior continued to expand and enhance its efforts to support employment of veterans at Interior. These efforts included: supporting wounded warrior and veteran internships and full-time employment using special hiring authorities; advising veterans on the federal hiring process and creating resumes and translating their military skills into civil service related competencies through a direct e-mail and toll-free phone number.

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR AMERICA'S YOUTH IN THE OUTDOORS



Secretary Salazar stands with students in front of a newly installed solar panel in Utah

Secretary Salazar established youth employment and education as a priority of the Department by creating the Office of Youth in the Great Outdoors. Interior is the only federal agency to have a Secretarial-level office dedicated to providing Department-wide leadership, coordination, direction, and oversight of youth employment and education programs.

Employing Youth

Interior and its bureaus achieved 15,900 new youth hires in FY 2010, a 45 percent increase over new hires in FY 2009. A total of 21,874

young people were employed by Interior at the end of FY 2010. Interior also indirectly employs youth through other organizations and reaches millions of youth through education and recreation programs.

Through Recovery Act funding, Interior has been able to employ more than 4,800 young people for the summers of 2009 and 2010. Under this initiative, young people contributed to trail construction, facility modernization, and energy efficiency projects over the past two summers.

Integrating *Let's Move!* Into Interior Programs

Interior is working to incorporate First Lady Michelle Obama's *Let's Move!* initiative into its programs to help combat the problem of childhood obesity. Through *Let's Move Outside!*, a joint initiative with the Department of Agriculture, Interior is promoting outdoor physical activity for children and families on the nation's public lands. In 2011, Interior will launch ***Let's Move! in Indian Country*** to address the childhood obesity crisis specific to American Indians and Alaska Natives.



*Secretary Salazar joins students for a *Let's Move Outside!* event in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, CA*

Leveraging Federal Partnerships

Interior worked with the Department of Labor, Agriculture, and the Environmental Protection Agency on a series of programs to leverage federal funding for youth employment on our public lands. They launched a joint \$20 million grant initiative designed to help disadvantaged youth prepare for jobs in the outdoors. Through a national grant competition, funds will be awarded to enable ex-offenders ages 18-24 to give back to their communities through service and conservation work.

Organizing America's Great Outdoors Youth Listening Sessions

In support of the President's America's Great Outdoors initiative, the Office of Youth helped organize 21 youth-specific listening sessions across the country. Government officials met with several thousand diverse young people-- teenagers, college students, and twenty-somethings--each of whom had a unique perspective on and experience with the outdoors.

Educating through Place-Based Learning at Parks

Secretary Salazar and Education Secretary Duncan are initiating a partnership to support and promote place-based learning at national parks and other Department sites to enhance educational experiences for students and teachers. In 2010, the National Park Service offered more than 95,000 curriculum-based programs for K-12 schools attended by more than two million children - approximately 4 percent of all K-12 students in the United States - and engaged more than 700,000 children and their families in Junior Ranger programs.



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR LEADERSHIP, 2011



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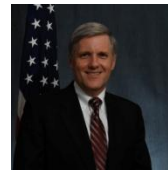
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