

# 2012 Election Outlook: Prospects for Science

Joanne Carney  
CENDI Meeting  
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AAAS R&D Budget and Policy Program  
<http://www.aaas.org/spp/rd>

# Obama Second Term

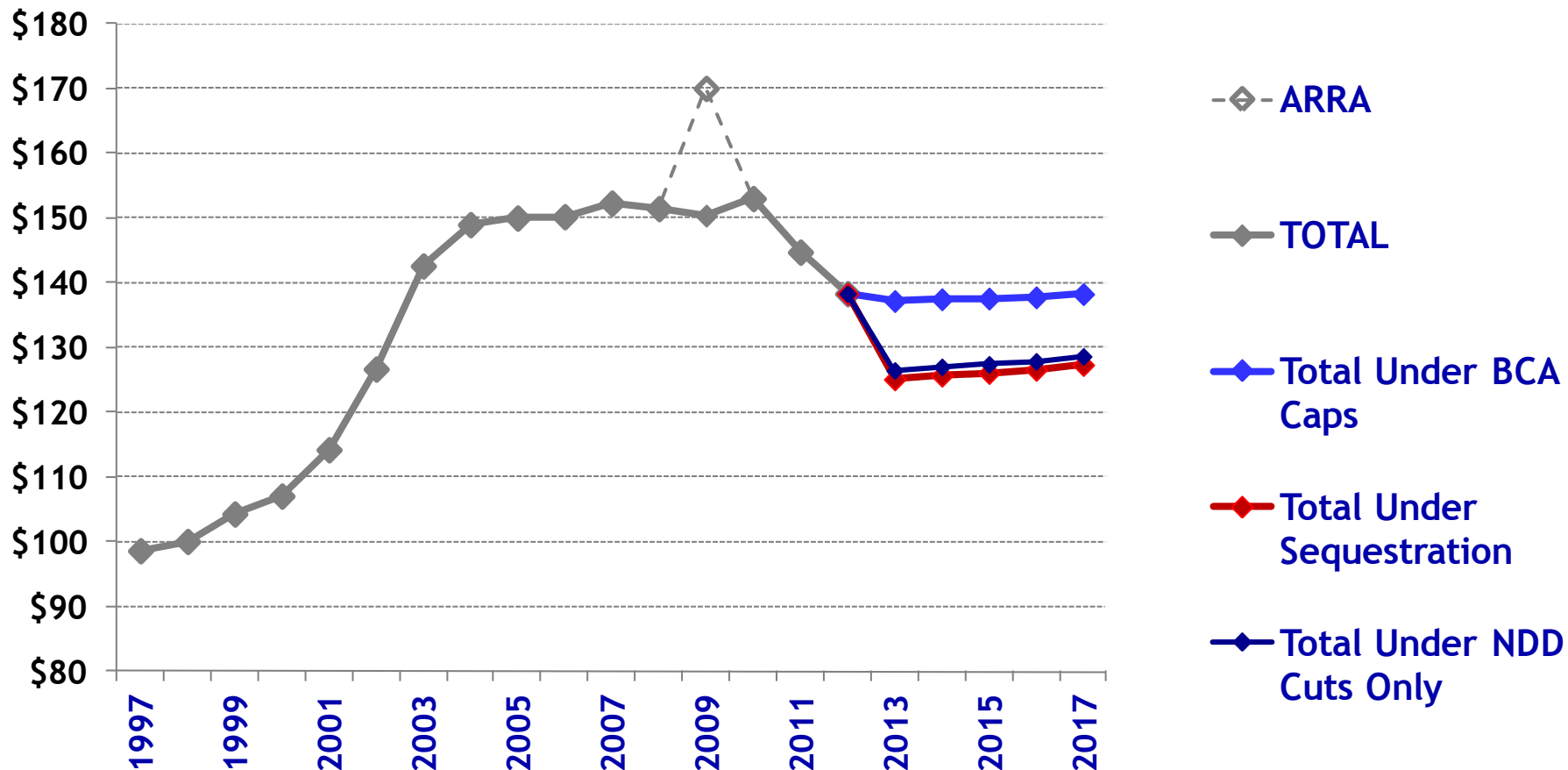
- Science important but not the top priority at the moment
- Fiscal Cliff
- Hurricane Sandy Recovery
- More Polarized Congress?
- Probable changes in agency and White House personnel

# Obama's R&D Priorities

- Jobs / Innovation + Science
  - Key R&D Agencies: \$13.1 billion (+4.4% from FY2012)
  - \$2.2 billion for advanced manufacturing
  - Permanent R&D Tax Credit (~\$8 billion per year)
  - 100,000 STEM Educators
- A Low-Carbon Economy
- Climate / Natural Resources
- Infrastructure
  - Wireless Innovation Fund / NextGen Air Transport System
- But how much will he be able to accomplish??

# Federal R&D Under Budget Control Act Caps With and Without Sequestration

in billions of constant FY 2012 dollars



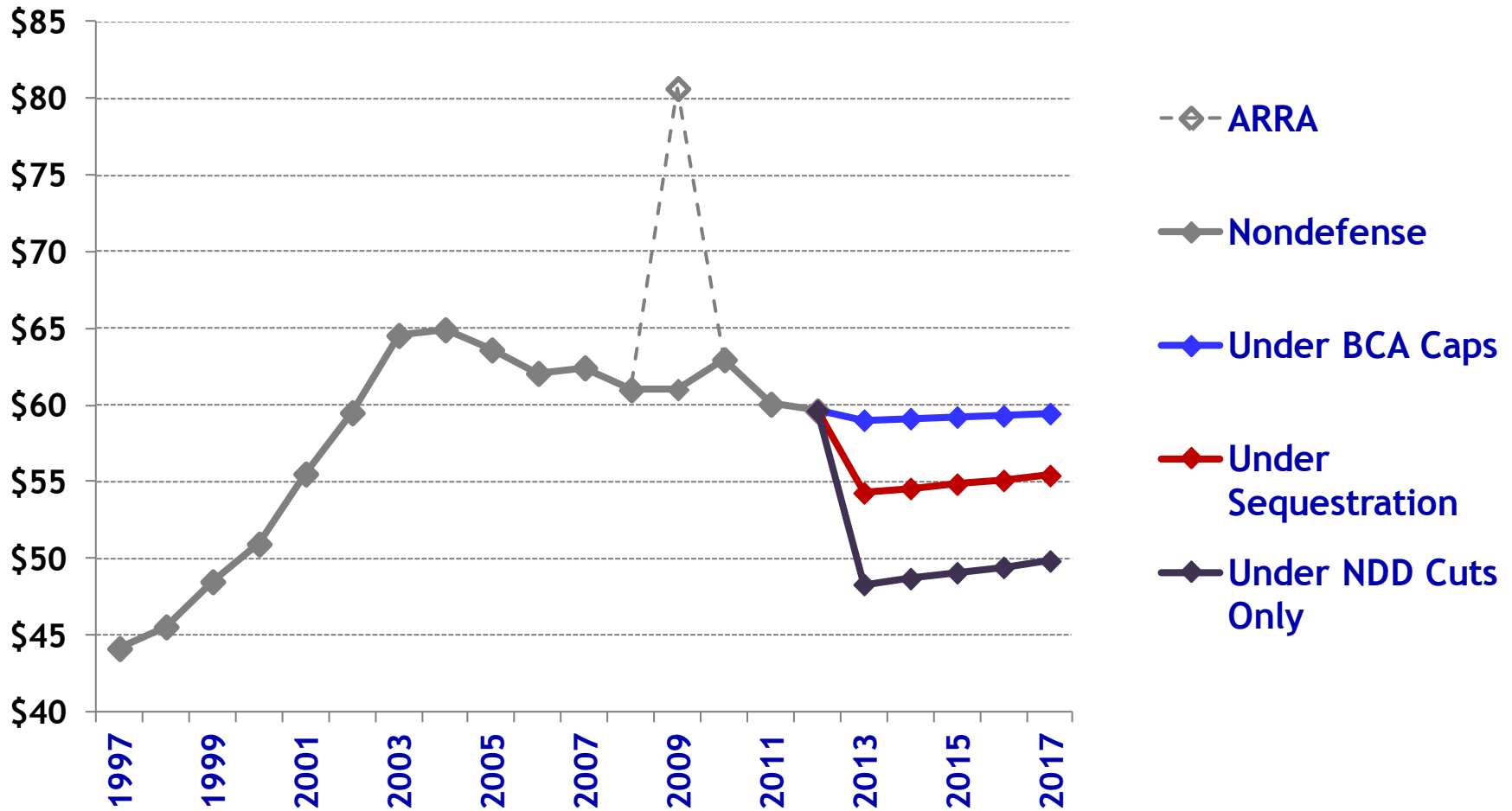
Source: Based on AAAS estimates of R&D funding and the FY 2013 budget, and CBO and OMB analyses of the Budget Control Act.

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# Federal Nondefense R&D Under BCA Caps With and Without Sequestration

in billions of constant FY 2012 dollars



Source: Based on AAAS estimates of R&D funding and the FY 2013 budget, and CBO analyses of the Budget Control Act.

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## Under Current-Law Sequestration...

Agency	Average Annual Cut	5-Year Cut (Percent)	R&D Budget Lowest Since...
Total R&D	\$11.5 billion	-8.4%	2002
Defense	\$6.7 billion	-9.1%	2003
NIH	\$2.3 billion	-7.6%	2002
Energy	\$917 million	-8.2%	2008
NSF	\$421 million	-7.6%	2010
NASA	\$705 million	-7.6%	1988
Agriculture	\$175 million	-7.6%	1998

*Note: The above is in constant FY 2012 dollars*

# Congressional Outlook

“Compromise Possible...  
Punt Typical”

## Outcome of Election -- Unknown

- How far to move the goalposts
- Protect defense discretionary budget
- Simpson/Bowles Deficit Reduction Plan become Rescue Plan???



## Outcome of Election -- Known

- Lost science champions due to redistricting
- Tight races for other champions
  - Rep. Judy Biggert vs. former Rep. Bill Foster
- Term limits for chairmanships
  - House SS&T - Sensenbrenner vs. Smith
- Retirements open chairman slots
  - Senate ENR - Wyden vs. Coons
- Sen. Lieberman Retired - Sen. Collins Term Limited
  - Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE) - Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK)

# Future of Data and Information

- Increasing Government Transparency
- Access to Data Sets
- Public Access to Research

In What Form?

To What Extent?