

America's Great Outdoors



Americans love the outdoor places where they hunt, fish, hike, and get away from it all, and they expect these lands to be protected wisely on their behalf.

*Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior
December 23, 2010*

Americans are blessed with a vast and varied natural and cultural heritage. From mountains to deserts and from sea to shining sea, America's great outdoors have shaped the rugged independence and sense of community that define the American spirit. These working landscapes, cultural sites, parks, coasts, wild lands, rivers, and streams are an inheritance from previous generations. They are the places that offer refuge from daily demands, renew our spirit, and enhance our fondest memories, whether it be fishing with a grandchild in a favorite spot, hiking a trail with a friend, or enjoying a family picnic in a neighborhood park. The great outdoors also includes the farms, ranches, and forests that have fed and sustained generations.

The great outdoors is an enduring jobs creator for America. The American outdoor industry estimates 6.5 million jobs are created every year from outdoor activities. An economic impact analysis completed by the Department of the Interior in December 2009 estimates that in 2008 more than 400 million visits to the Nation's parks, refuges, and public lands generated nearly \$25 billion and over 300,000 jobs in recreation and tourism, contributing significantly to the economic vitality of many communities.

Americans take pride in these places, and share a responsibility to preserve them for future generations. However, these treasured landscapes and public spaces are threatened. Pollution, habitat

GOALS OF THE AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS INITIATIVE

EXECUTIVE MEMORANDUM, APRIL 16, 2010

- Promoting community-based recreation and conservation, including local parks, greenways, beaches, and waterways.
- Advancing job and volunteer opportunities related to conservation and outdoor recreation.
- Supporting existing programs and projects that educate and engage Americans in our history, culture, and natural bounty.
- Building upon State, local, private, and tribal priorities for the conservation of land, water, wildlife, historic, and cultural resources, creating corridors and connectivity across these outdoor spaces, and for enhancing neighborhood parks.
- Determining how the Federal government can best advance those priorities through public private partnerships and locally supported conservation strategies.
- Using science-based management practices to restore and protect our lands and waters for future generations.

fragmentation, and loss of wetlands impact wild-life, ecosystems, and the water bodies that provide nursery grounds for fisheries and water for wild-life, human consumption, and agriculture. Harsh weather, theft, and development threaten to degrade the Nation’s cultural and historic treasures. These challenges are real, and solving them will only be accomplished by working together and supporting local and State approaches to conservation, recreation, and restoration.

On April 16, 2010, President Obama announced the America’s Great Outdoors initiative, launching a 21st century conservation agenda tailored to address the particular challenges of this century. The initiative acknowledges that lasting conservation solutions should arise from the American people – that the protection of the Nation’s natural heritage is an objective shared by Americans. Even in tough economic times, these are important priorities, which have

significant long-term impacts on future prosperity and immediate impacts on the health of the people, the livability of communities, and the quality of lands and water to support tourism and historic uses. As such, this initiative seeks to empower all American citizens, community groups, and local, State and tribal governments to share in the leadership responsibility for protecting, improving, and providing greater access to natural areas and their resources and leaving a healthy, vibrant outdoor legacy for generations to come.

Interior has a critical role in helping to shape and implement this agenda as the primary steward of the Nation’s public lands and with responsibilities to conserve wildlife and fisheries throughout the country. With key investments and leveraging existing resources, Interior will work with other Federal agencies, State and local governments, Tribes, and non-government partners to address these goals.

AMERICA’S GREAT OUTDOORS		
(dollars in millions)		
	2010 Enacted/ 2011 CR	2012
LAND MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS		
Bureau of Land Management	1,071.1	1,045.8
Fish and Wildlife Service	1,269.4	1,271.9
National Park Service	2,261.6	2,296.9
Subtotal, Land Management Operations	4,602.1	4,614.6
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAMS		
Federal Land Acquisition	214.4	375.0
State Grants	40.0	200.0
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund	85.0	100.0
Subtotal, LWCF Programs	339.4	675.0
OTHER GRANT PROGRAMS		
Partnership Programs - FWS	142.6	150.0
Historic Preservation Grants	55.9	62.4
Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance - NPS	8.9	10.0
Subtotal, Other Grant Programs	207.4	222.4
TOTAL	5,148.9	5,511.9

2012 BUDGET SUMMARY

The America's Great Outdoors initiative is broadly defined to capture programs that are key to attaining conservation goals. The 2012 President's budget request for the Department of the Interior will provide \$5.5 billion to further the goals of the this initiative; \$4.6 billion to ensure the public lands are protected and remain available for public use, recreation, and education; \$675.0 million for Land and Water Conservation Fund programs, including Federal land acquisition and Stateside grants; \$150.0 million for Fish and Wildlife Service conservation grants; and \$72.4 million for National Park Service partnership programs.

The Interior Department's 2012 budget request, together with the Department of Agriculture U.S. Forest Service's land acquisition and Forest Legacy request, fully funds LWCF programs at \$900.0 million. This is a historic event, as the Land and Water Conservation Fund, created by President John F. Kennedy has only been fully funded one time since it was created over 40 years ago. Input from the America's Great Outdoors nationwide public listening sessions indicated this was a high priority for the American people and a strategic component to the success of the President's initiative due to the benefits it provides to the American public and the landscapes cared about most.

Funding for this initiative will be executed with an emphasis on partnerships. The government will engage citizens and communities in revitalizing their relationship with the outdoors by strategically allocating resources to support successful locally led partnerships while also catalyzing new partnerships and innovations, and exploring ways of streamlining processes and enhancing coordination between the Federal government and its partners. The 2012 budget integrates and leverages the efforts of the Bureau of Land Management, FWS, NPS, and the Forest Service along with States, Tribes, and other Federal and non-Federal partners to focus on the most important opportunities for conservation.

LISTENING TO AMERICA

The Department, working with the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Agriculture, and the White House Council on Environmental Quality, directly engaged the public in the development of this initiative over the course of six months in 2010.



Citizens directly participated in 30 public listening sessions and 21 youth-focused sessions in cities, towns, and communities across the Country. A broad cross-section of citizens participated in this process, including farmers and ranchers; Tribes and Alaska Natives; representatives of land trusts, conservation organizations, local parks and recreation districts, historic preservation groups, and faith communities; State and local governments; private businesses; and outdoor recreation enthusiasts and organizations of every type – anglers, bicyclists, hunters, recreational vehicle operators, climbers, boaters, and horseback riders among them. All told, more than 105,000 ideas were provided through listening sessions, in letters, as well as online and through social media sites.

Listening session participants across the country spoke of their deep connection with the outdoors. They described improved mental and physical health, quality time spent with families and friends, and opportunities for employment and for public service as some of the tangible and intangible benefits of being outdoors.

Participants also discussed the value of youth stewardship programs for the next generation of farmers, hunters, and anglers; programs that engage Americans with the outdoors through biking, hiking, hunting, canoeing, skiing, and other recreational activities; and initiatives that encourage parents to get their children outside. One listening session was devoted to the cutting edge topic of the connection between outdoor experiences and improved mental and physical health. Others focused on the unique relationship that tribal communities have with nature, culture, and the outdoors.

Listening sessions made it clear that farmers, ranchers, and forest owners want to help protect America's great outdoors. Conservationists and landowners discussed the need to maintain traditional uses and



markets for food, fiber and wood products, and to create new sources of revenue from working lands. Discussions also centered on the potential to develop new markets for environmental services and benefits provided by private lands, such as wetlands, biodiversity, water quality, and mitigation of climate change impacts. Innovations such as these could create new sources of income, promote stewardship, and maintain these lands in agricultural and forestry uses. Finally, listening sessions generated ideas for making government work better: many participants felt that government agencies and programs are too complicated, are inflexible, and don't always work well with each other or with non-Federal partners. Interior's budget request for 2012 acknowledges this important feedback, and incorporates recommendations that will help the Federal government work more closely with community-led efforts and partner with communities, States, Tribes, and non-governmental organizations.

CONNECTING AMERICANS TO THE GREAT OUTDOORS

...[w]e are losing our connection to the parks, wild places, and open spaces we grew up with and cherish. Children, especially, are spending less time outside running and playing, fishing and hunting, and connecting to the outdoors just down the street or outside of town.

President Barack Obama
April 16, 2010

America's natural heritage has defined the Nation and shaped American culture. Since the Nation's ear-

liest beginnings, the relationship with the outdoors has engendered a strong sense of community balanced by rugged individualism – both hallmarks of the American character. Today, a walk in the woods, a jog along an urban waterfront, or a fishing trip with a grandchild can renew this historic connection to the outdoors and create lasting memories that contribute to the American identity. Each camping trip to a national park or visit to a historic battlefield can strengthen this sense of national pride and shared responsibility for public lands and waters and the history they contain.

For many Americans, particularly young people, the outdoors and open spaces are no longer accessible nor inviting. Many Americans worry about their safety while outdoors and while making their way to outdoor recreation sites. Simply getting there is another obstacle for many, especially youth and disadvantaged communities, many of whom are unable to access or afford transportation to reach outdoor destinations.

This disconnect from nature and the outdoors is a challenge facing America's youth, health, and public lands. In the past, many American children participated in hunting, fishing, bird watching, and enjoyed long hours of unstructured, outdoor play time. For many younger generations, nature has become more abstract; something to learn passively about through technology or in a classroom setting.



How the public, particularly young Americans, respond to nature will shape the future of conservation in America, and potentially the health and economic well being of its citizen's as well. Americans' increasing disconnect from the outdoors is one factor in the skyrocketing rate of obesity across the Nation, tripling in children over the past 30 years. Studies show that access to the outdoors can help turn the tide on the health epidemic of obesity; and

that play and relaxation in nature can reduce stress and anxiety, promote learning and personal growth, and provide overall mental and physical restoration. By providing safe, accessible recreational sites, a new generation can learn the intrinsic value of the Country's natural heritage.

The Interior budget includes \$46.8 million, an increase of \$7.6 million in support of the Youth in the Great Outdoors initiative to employ, educate, and engage young people from all backgrounds in exploring, connecting with, and preserving America's natural and cultural heritage.



Youth will have an opportunity to participate in Interior programs that are creating renewable energy advancements, tackling cooperative landscape conservation issues such as climate change and water conservation, strengthening Native communities, building trails, enhancing wildlife habitat, and restoring our cultural and historic landmarks. As stewards of the Nation's lands, waters, cultural heritage, and tribal customs, Interior has a unique opportunity to reach out to under-served populations and to ensure these natural and cultural resources are enjoyed by all Americans. Further discussion of this initiative is included in the Youth in the Great Outdoors chapter of the Departmental Highlights.

Interior's 2012 budget request recognizes the importance of the Nation's lands and waters to connecting Americans to the outdoors and to their livelihood and economic prosperity. The budget invests funding in programs designed to meet today's conservation challenges and the responsible multiple purpose use of public lands. The budget request includes \$4.6 billion, an increase of \$12.5 million for BLM, FWS, and NPS land management operations.

Bureau of Land Management Operations—The 2012 BLM operations request is \$1.0 billion, a decrease of \$25.3 million below the 2010 Enacted / 2011 CR level. Among the changes, this net reduction includes \$38.0 million in oil and gas inspection costs being shifted to industry fees. The budget will advance key goals of the America's Great Outdoors initiative with funding increases that will address significant needs for operations and maintenance of public lands. Funding will be focused on priority areas to increase and improve recreational access and opportunities; raise awareness of the value and benefits of conservation through education and partnerships; and conserve and restore valuable natural and cultural resources.

The request includes \$29.9 million in programmatic increases that benefit cultural resources and recreation management programs and the national landscape conservation system units, recognized for their outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values. Funds would be used to inventory and catalog museum collections to determine the presence of archaeological, paleontological, and historical resources, conduct more stabilization and protection projects, and expand interpretation and information sharing, among other activities.

The additional funds for recreation will enable the BLM to accelerate the development and implementation of travel management plans to enhance authorized access for off-highway vehicle use on



public lands, while protecting important natural and cultural resources from unauthorized use. The recreation program will also be able to expand and enhance interpretative and visitor services activities at over 100 recreation areas and sites both within and outside the national landscape conservation system. These enhanced visitor services activities

will emphasize visitor safety, interpretive programs and products to promote resource understanding and stewardship with a focus on involving families and youth, and monitoring to ensure recreation land use plan objectives are being met.

All units of the national landscape conservation system will benefit from the 2012 funding increases, including national monuments and national conservation areas, wild and scenic rivers, and national scenic and historic trails. The increase will allow BLM to implement resource management plans, enhance law enforcement activities, and conduct vegetative treatments and landscape health monitoring activities.



Fish and Wildlife Service Operations – The 2012 FWS budget request for the Resource Management account is \$1.3 billion, an increase of \$2.5 million above the 2010 Enacted / 2011 CR level. The budget request will help advance key goals of the America’s Great Outdoors initiative, with \$30.5 million in net programmatic increases in the FWS operating account that have been partially offset by funding reductions for administrative efficiencies. The national wildlife refuge system has unique authorities and flexible programs that deliver landscape level conservation while at the same time provide outdoor recreation, hunting, and fishing compatible with protecting wildlife populations. Annually, more than 42.5 million visitors come to refuges to hunt, fish, observe, and photograph wildlife and participate in environmental education and interpretive programs on refuges, generating \$1.7 billion in revenue and supporting nearly 27,000 jobs. Millions of acres of refuge lands are owned outright and managed wholly by FWS to protect habitat for fish and wildlife. Additionally, the refuge system uses easements and partnership programs that protect important habitat features on private working lands.

The 2012 FWS budget requests a program increase of \$16.1 million for the refuge system. Funds will be used to enhance the protection of wildlife and habitat from various impacts, update exhibits and educational materials, and increase the number of wildlife inventories. Of the funding increase requested, \$8.0 million will expand necessary inventory and monitoring on refuges to establish baselines and determine the status and trends of fish, wildlife, and plants. Refuge habitats are impacted by land use changes off refuges, the spread of invasive species, and changing weather patterns and climate. Establishing biological baselines on refuges will better equip FWS to conduct vulnerability assessments and protect and restore natural landscapes with native vegetation and provide increased habitat connectivity.

A \$6.5 million increase will cover the costs of necessary operational supplies, utilities and fuel, and other requirements. It will also be used to hire seasonal employees, restore habitats, and control invasive species. These activities are essential in protecting and restoring habitat for trust species while providing access to and enjoyment of these wildlife resources to the public.

Another \$1.8 million of the funding increase for wildlife refuges is targeted at restoring the Chesapeake Bay. The requested funding would be used to improve habitat for FWS priority fish and wildlife trust species through habitat restoration and management on 13 national wildlife refuges within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Much of the work would be done by expanding existing partnerships. The FWS would develop population and habitat models on and off national wildlife refuges to determine the ability of Chesapeake Bay lands and waters to conserve priority populations of aquatic species, endangered and threatened species, migratory birds, and other Federal trust resources.



MIGRATORY BIRD JOINT VENTURES PROGRAM

The 2012 budget includes an increase of \$1.6 million to restore habitat and populations of declining bird species through the FWS' successful Joint Ventures program.

Migratory birds, dependant on flyways, are particularly impacted by habitat loss and degradation due to agricultural expansion, suburban development, and other causes of landscape fragmentation. Increased funding to support Joint Ventures' strategic partnerships supports improved conservation in critical areas. Priority will be given to those joint ventures that can expand their capacities to integrate planning and delivery with Department of Agriculture conservation programs, State Wildlife Action Plans, and other major landscape initiatives and programs.

Approximately 19 new inventories would be completed with this funding. Funding would also be used to better control non-native species, such as stiltgrass, phragmites, kudzu, and trumpet vine. Once detected, rapid response teams would act to eradicate or control infestations of invasive species before they can become established.

Another FWS program that will contribute to the America's Great Outdoor initiative is the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program. This private lands conservation program brings the technical biological expertise of FWS to farmers, ranchers, and other private landowners to protect and restore native habitat for fish and wildlife species through cost sharing agreements. The 2012 budget maintains funding to enable private landowners to participate in habitat conservation in ways that connect them to nature, while helping the Federal government meet its responsibilities in protecting and restoring fish and wildlife populations.

National Park Service Operations – The 2012 NPS budget request is \$2.3 billion, an increase of \$35.3 million above the 2010 Enacted / 2011 CR level. Since 1916, NPS has been a steward of awe-inspiring landscapes, treasured icons, and local parks in which the American public recreates. With the help of volunteers and park partners, NPS proudly operates 394 park units, sharing the stories and breathtaking

beauty of these sites with more than 285 million visitors every year.



The 2012 NPS budget request includes \$39.5 million in park base increases that will help advance key goals of the America's Great Outdoor initiative. This increase provides funding for engaging youth in the great outdoors; protecting and interpreting cultural resources, in particular those that interpret the history of the Civil War; and improving the condition of park system facilities. The 2012 request also continues to support important ecosystem restoration projects such as the Everglades and Chesapeake Bay restoration programs. The allocation of funding will be focused on highest priority needs to leverage other activities. For example, in 2012 an increase of \$205,000 will support the "A Trail to Every Classroom" professional development program for teachers and management partners from Georgia to Maine. This program will promote civic engagement, environmental awareness, and healthy lifestyles by using the Appalachian National Scenic Trail as an education resource. This summer institute, piloted in 2006, offers a wide array of educational activities including citizen science and curriculum development. Subsequent demand from teachers for this program is very high, with two teachers applying for each space in the program.

NPS Rivers and Trails – The NPS budget request includes \$10.0 million, an increase of \$1.1 million to expand the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program to help communities increase and improve recreational opportunities. Working in communities across the Nation, this program provides expertise and experience to help citizens and community groups achieve on-the-ground conservation successes and urban renewal for their projects. From urban promenades to trails along abandoned railroad rights-of-way to wildlife corridors, the rivers and trails program promotes the creation and restoration of diverse greenways, as well as river conservation activities spanning downtown riverfronts to regional water trails to stream restoration. This increase will provide an



important resource to local communities as they work with States to implement the projects funded from the \$200.0 million NPS LWCF State grants program proposed in the 2012 budget. The rivers and trails program staff can help communities identify resources, navigate the planning process, and convert ideas into actions.

CONSERVING AND RESTORING AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS

We have fallen heirs to the most glorious heritage a people ever received, and each one must do his part if we wish to show that the Nation is worthy of its good fortune.

*Theodore Roosevelt
July 4, 1886*

At the beginning of the 20th century, Americans realized the immense natural wealth of the United States was limited, as symbolized by the closure of the western frontier and the disappearance of the great bison herds on the Great Plains. In response, President Theodore Roosevelt made natural resource conservation a primary goal of his Administration. Roosevelt focused on the public estate, placing approximately 230 million acres under public protection. He created five national parks, signed the 1906 Antiquities Act, established 18 national monuments, and set aside the first lands to become national wildlife refuges.

The America's Great Outdoors initiative celebrates Roosevelt's legacy as a new chapter in American conservation is being written. Some of today's challenges are similar to those faced at the dawn of the

20th century; the need for economic revitalization; creating shared public spaces in cities and towns; conserving public lands; protecting clean and abundant water for human consumption, agriculture, and other uses; and protecting the Nation's cultural and historic treasures.

However, new challenges have emerged. Today, approximately two million acres of working farms, ranches, and forests are being lost annually to development and fragmentation. With over seventy percent of the Nation's lands privately owned, working lands are vital to conserve water resources, ecosystems, and wildlife and to provide recreational opportunities for hunters, anglers, and other outdoor enthusiasts. In the 21st century, partnerships with both private and public stakeholders will be critical to the success of conservation and restoration goals. Throughout the listening sessions, people across the country called for better collaboration between the public and private sectors; State, local, and tribal governments; and between local communities and the Federal government in helping citizens to realize the wide-ranging benefits of a revitalized connection to the outdoors. This initiative fully embraces the principles of partnerships and collaboration in meeting its conservation objectives.



Local communities and private landowners are eager to partner with the Federal government to achieve shared goals: vibrant rural communities; sustainable livelihoods in farming and forestry; safe open spaces for recreation; and healthy ecosystems. Conservation easements are one cost-effective tool through which private landowners and the Federal government can enter into mutually beneficial agreements that help keep our working lands – forests, farms and ranches – in production, while delivering conservation benefits to the broader landscape. These voluntary agreements provide an economic boost for rural landowners who wish to undertake conserva-

tion activities on their own lands, often alongside agricultural operations. Easement programs are so popular with private landowners that in some places the supply of willing sellers far outstrips Federal capacity to work with them. In just one region, for example, FWS maintains a list of over 1,000 private landowners who wish to participate in its conservation easement programs. These landowners seek to collaborate with the government on conservation easements that, cumulatively, could protect over 500,000 acres of private land.



Throughout the listening sessions, citizens validated the need to conserve the Nation's lands and waters. They sustain people, providing opportunities for recreation, relaxation, and renewal. The public lands and waters promote access to the great outdoors through hiking, biking, or horseback riding along a local trail, a family ski vacation, a visit to a historic or cultural site, or a weekend fishing trip. All of these types of activities improve our quality of life, while also bringing economic benefits to local communities.

Many rural communities rely on the Federal government's management of public lands for multiple purposes, including forestry, grazing, renewable and nonrenewable energy, and other historic activities, as sources of employment and economic growth. An economic impact analysis completed by the Department in December 2009, reports an estimated \$130 billion and 583,000 jobs are generated annually from BLM lands, primarily in energy and minerals related activity.

Urban communities rely on public lands as greenspaces for recreation and education, protection of watersheds that are sources of potable water, and areas for hunting and fishing. Balancing consumptive and non-consumptive uses of public lands has become increasingly important. Land restoration

activities and the emerging area of renewable energy can provide both environmental benefits and jobs for local communities.

Land and Water Conservation Fund – Created in 1964, the LWCF helps preserve, develop, and assure access to outdoor recreation resources. Every year revenues received from offshore oil and gas production, the sale of surplus Federal real estate, and taxes on motorboat fuel are deposited into the fund. Since 1977, \$900.0 million has been collected annually into the fund, and is available, subject to appropriation, to fund Federal land acquisition; conserve threatened and endangered species; and provide grants to States. A total of \$31.7 billion has been collected into the fund since its inception in 1964, of which \$16.5 billion remains in balances in the fund.

To date, the program has provided more than \$15 billion specifically to acquire lands and as grants to State and local governments to:

- Provide recreational opportunities.
- Provide clean water.
- Preserve wildlife habitat.
- Enhance scenic vistas.
- Protect archaeological and historical sites.
- Maintain the pristine nature of wilderness.

Interior's 2012 request, together with the Forest Service's request, fully funds the LWCF at \$900.0 million. The Department estimates the \$675.0 million Interior LWCF request will contribute an estimated \$1.0 billion in economic output and support about 7,600 jobs. Along with this significant economic impact, full funding in 2012 will increase the Federal government's ability to engage in strategic conservation that yields measurable ecological outcomes and community benefits. Activities funded under the LWCF will continue to ensure public access to the outdoors, preserve natural resources and landscapes, and protect irreplaceable cultural and historic sites. Input from the America's Great Outdoors nationwide public listening sessions indicated full funding of the LWCF program is a high priority for the American people. The LWCF funding detail is contained in Appendix F.

The request also includes \$5.0 million for the Highlands Conservation Act, to provide grants to Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New

A NEW APPROACH TO FEDERAL LAND ACQUISITION

To formulate the 2012 Federal land acquisition priorities, the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture worked together on the first ever Federal government-wide process to coordinate land acquisition and conservation strategies for programs funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund using merit-based criteria. The goal was to collaboratively identify important landscape and strategically leverage Federal resources to conserve them throughout the country.

The Interior bureaus and Forest Service identified geographic areas with shared strategic conservation objectives, where collaboration is feasible, and where prompt action can protect important natural and cultural resources. The agencies also sought out areas with significant opportunities to leverage additional non-Federal funding, to coordinate with other Federal, State, local, and tribal governments to maximize conservation outcomes, and to realize economic and community benefits, such as new or enhanced outdoor recreation opportunities from strategic investment in land conservation. With this in mind, the agencies agreed to focus in twelve geographic areas as well as yet to be defined urban areas:

CALIFORNIA DESERT *Mediterranean Coast to Desert – California*

CHESAPEAKE – *Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia*

CONNECTICUT RIVER – *Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont*

CROWN OF THE CONTINENT – *Idaho, Montana, Wyoming*

EVERGLADES AND SOUTH FLORIDA – *Florida*

GRASSLANDS AND PRAIRIE POTHOLES – *Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming*

LONGLEAF PINE – *Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas*

LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY – *Arkansas, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee*

NORTH WOODS – *Maine, New York, New Hampshire, Vermont*

PACIFIC NORTHWEST – *Alaska, California, Idaho, Oregon, Washington*

SOUTHERN ROCKIES – *Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming*

SOUTHWEST DESERT – *Arizona, New Mexico*

URBAN AREAS

Projects were selected using bureau and Department-wide merit-based selection processes tied to bureau mission goals. Projects may have been given additional weighting if they also contributed to conservation objectives in these areas. These criteria include the mission value of the planned acquisition, feasibility of acquiring and operating lands, availability of willing sellers, potential for imminent development of the property, and participation of partners. Some criteria may be more heavily weighted for certain bureaus, such as the value of acquisition for threatened and endangered wildlife in the case of FWS.

This new approach will significantly advance merit-based projects that are collaborative, integrate the efforts of multiple entities, and focus on highest priority conservation objectives.

York for the protection of lands in some of the last remaining contiguous natural habitat near major metropolitan areas.

Federal Land Acquisition – Interior’s acquisition programs work in cooperation with local communities, rely on willing sellers, and maximize opportunities for easement acquisitions. The public is engaged in the planning, development, and conservation of these areas. The 2012 proposal for Federal acquisition is \$465.0 million, an increase of \$187.1 million above the 2010 Enacted/2011 CR level. This includes \$375.0 million for Federal acquisition by Interior bureaus and \$90.0 million by the Forest Service. This request is the result of strategic coordination at the highest levels among Federal land management agencies. The requested funds will address the most urgent needs for recreation; species and habitat conservation; and the preservation of landscapes, and historic and cultural resources. The LWCF funds will also help the government achieve greater efficiencies through acquisitions that resolve management issues.

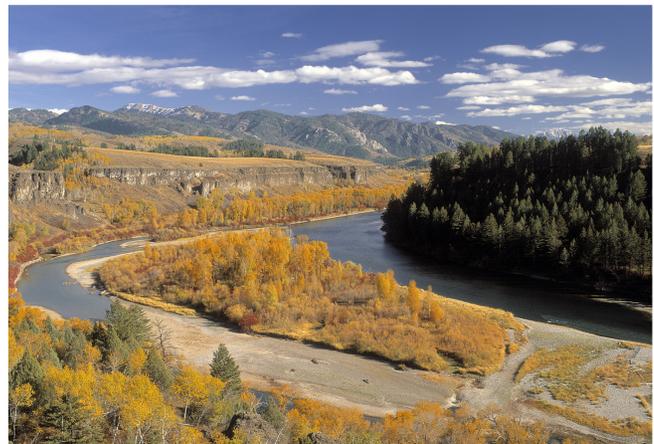
The Departments of the Interior and Agriculture worked together on the first-ever Federal government-wide process to coordinate nationwide land acquisition and conservation strategies in 2012. The agencies – the Forest Service, BLM, FWS, and NPS – collaboratively identified landscape scale opportunities throughout the country where LWCF funds could be used to leverage other Federal resources, along with those of non-Federal partners, to achieve shared conservation outcome goals in high priority landscapes. Interior has shared its information on the focal areas with the Department of Defense’s Readiness and Environmental Protection initiative and will continue to collaborate with them on common conservation goals.

Bureau of Land Management – The BLM request of \$50.0 million for land acquisition is an increase of \$20.4 million above the 2010 Enacted/2011 CR level. The request includes \$3.4 million in acquisition management, inholdings, exchanges, and emergency acquisition and \$46.6 million in line-item projects. Funding will be used for additions to the national landscape conservation system, national historic trails, national wild and scenic rivers, and special resource management areas.

The BLM will purchase easements or acquire approximately 38,600 acres in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, and Wyoming. The BLM proposes to invest in the

interagency focal areas including: \$15.3 million in the Crown of the Continent; \$9.2 million in the Southern Rockies; \$1.0 million in the Southwest Desert; \$10.0 million in the Pacific Northwest; and \$6.0 million in the California Desert. In addition, BLM has identified \$5.1 million in four additional high priority projects that, while not in the boundaries of a geographic focal area, are important to fulfilling land management responsibilities.

These acquisitions will focus on the protection of habitat important for the preservation of natural and cultural resources and for recreation. For example, an investment of \$6.0 million in the Upper Snake/South Fork Snake River Area of Critical Environmental Concern/Special Recreation Management Area would conserve and enhance significant scenic,



recreational, and wildlife resources within the Snake River corridors. This request consists of acquisitions and conservation easements on 3,045 acres of working landscapes that are within a nationally important bird area and a world famous, blue ribbon fishery. The diverse recreational opportunities account for 335,000 recreational visits per year as well as sustain habitat for a broad variety of plants, fish, birds, and wildlife.

Fish and Wildlife Service – The 2012 FWS request is \$140.0 million, an increase of \$53.7 million above the 2010 Enacted/2011 CR level. The FWS request includes \$26.0 million in acquisition management, inholdings, exchanges, and emergency acquisition and \$114.0 million in line-item projects. Funds will be used for additions to existing refuges to protect 90,500 acres of significant and high priority wildlife and their habitat. The FWS will make investments in significant river, riparian, and wetland habitat that will protect aquatic and terrestrial species dependent on these habitats.

The FWS 2012 land acquisition request includes the purchase of conservation easements from four different owners for a total of \$8.0 million in the Rocky Mountain Front Conservation Area. Funds would acquire 19,277 acres in permanent conservation easements. The Rocky Mountain Front is considered to be one of the best intact ecosystems remaining in the lower 48 States. Nearly every wildlife species described by Lewis and Clark in 1806, with the exception of the iconic free ranging bison, still exist on the Front in relatively stable or increasing numbers. Protecting these tracts with conservation easements prevents fragmentation and preserves the environmental and economic health of these landscapes. It would also provide income to the rural landowners who own and care for these valuable lands.

The FWS will acquire high priority lands in the following interagency focal areas: \$2.3 million in the Chesapeake; \$6.5 million in the Connecticut River; \$9.5 million in the Crown of the Continent; \$5.0 million in the Grasslands and Prairie Potholes; \$12.6 million in the Longleaf Pine; \$6.8 million in the Lower Mississippi Valley; \$2.3 million in the



North Woods; \$4.8 million in the Pacific Northwest; \$500,000 in the Southern Rockies; and \$13.1 million in Urban Areas. In addition, FWS has identified \$50.7 million in 23 additional high priority projects that, while not in the boundaries of a geographic focal area, are important to fulfilling FWS responsibilities.

National Park Service – The 2012 NPS budget request for Federal land acquisition is \$160.0 million, an increase of \$73.7 million above the 2010 Enacted / 2011 CR level. The NPS request for Federal land acquisition includes \$41.0 million in acquisition management, inholdings, exchanges, and emergency acquisition and \$109.0 million in line-item

projects. Funds will be used by NPS to acquire 98,800 acres as additions within existing park unit boundaries to protect high priority natural, cultural, and historical properties. The request also includes \$10.0 million for the American Battlefield Protection program land acquisition grants, which will be used to provide grants to States and local communities to preserve and protect Civil War battlefield sites. This includes \$1.0 million over the 2010 Enacted / 2011 CR level requested in the budget to preserve the most threatened battlefields in preparation for the Civil War Sesquicentennial.

The 2012 request includes \$2.0 million for the NPS City of Rocks National Reserve in Idaho to acquire two tracts totaling 878 acres. This acquisition will serve to protect significant American cultural and historical areas and to preserve the surrounding natural landscape.

The budget request includes a total of \$15.0 million to protect and preserve the Teton Range, its surrounding landscapes, ecosystems, and cultural and historical resources. At the time of Statehood in 1890, the Federal government granted Wyoming lands to be held in trust by the State to provide revenue for its schools. Approximately 1,400 acres of these school trust lands were subsequently included within the boundaries of Grand Teton National Park when the park was established in 1950. The Grand Teton National Park Land Exchange Act authorizes Federal acquisition of the school lands. The State of Wyoming entered into an agreement with the United States for a phased conveyance, to be completed by January 5, 2015. The 2012 portion of the conveyance will be \$10.0 million. The NPS also requests \$5.0 million to acquire land used by the largest American elk herd as a winter ground just inside the park's southwest boundary, which is also a highly visible and scenic landscape in the foreground of the Teton Range.



The NPS requests \$1.0 million to protect 56 acres of land in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. This investment would preserve a significant natural landscape while providing access to recreational opportunities and open space in a large urban environment that is accessible to more than six million people who live within an hours drive.

The NPS will acquire high priority lands in the following interagency focal areas: \$3.0 million in the California Desert; \$3.4 million in the Chesapeake; \$16.3 million in the Crown of the Continent; \$30.6 million in the Everglades and South Florida; \$1.5 million in the Grasslands and Prairie Potholes; \$5.2 million in the Longleaf Pine; \$1.8 million in the North Woods; \$9.6 million in the Pacific Northwest; \$7.6 million in the Southern Rockies; and \$4.8 million in Urban Areas. In addition, NPS has identified \$25.4 million in 11 additional high priority projects that, while not in the boundaries of a focal area, are important to fulfilling NPS stewardship responsibilities for resource preservation and recreation.

NPS Grants – Urban parks and community green spaces contribute to the social fabric of America’s communities, and neighborhood parks are among the few public places where communities can congregate close to home and at no cost. For many people, these local, open environments are a stepping stone into the great outdoors that can lead to a lifelong bond with nature and enjoyment of the benefits that come with it. Parks and green space also generate economic benefits for communities and provide important and cost-effective ecological services, such as filtering water and air, managing storm runoff, and offering protective shade. For example, a 2008 study by the Trust for Public Land found that Philadelphia’s park system provided the city with revenue of \$23.3 million, municipal cost savings of \$16.1 million, resident cost savings of \$1.1 billion, and \$729.1 million generated in wealth for residents in 2007.

Permanently protected easements on privately owned lands also provide benefits such as water supply protection, fish and wildlife habitat, and erosion control. For example, in 2010 the Trust for Public Land analyzed the State of Colorado’s financial return on public investments in conservation easements, finding a return of six dollars in benefits for each dollar invested.

The 2012 NPS budget request includes \$200.0 million, an increase of \$160.0 million over the 2010 Enacted / 2011 CR level, for NPS State Conservation

grants. This includes \$195.0 million for grants and \$5.0 million for administration. Of the total included for grants, at least \$78 million will be distributed equally to States as required by law, an increase of



\$40.8 million over the 2010 Enacted / 2011 CR level. With the remaining funds, the 2012 budget proposes developing a competitive component targeted at community parks and green spaces, landscape-scale conservation, and recreational blueways.

This significant increase will help States promote outdoor recreation and conservation in large urban centers where access to natural areas has been inhibited or is unavailable. It also will engage young people and their families in the outdoors, particularly those in underserved communities; protect and restore open space and natural landscapes; and provide access to waterways. Consistent with the LWCF Act, projects will be limited to planning; acquisition of land, waters, or interests in land or waters; development of land or waters; or a combination thereof, to increase opportunities for public outdoor recreation.

FWS Conservation Grants – Recognizing that no single entity – Federal, State, tribal, local or private – is able to provide the resources necessary to achieve the Nation’s conservation goals, the FWS administers a number of grant programs that are matched by partners. Interior’s 2012 budget includes \$150.0 million, an increase of \$22.4 million above the 2010 Enacted / 2011 CR level for FWS Conservation Grant programs. Included is \$50.0 million for North American Wetlands Conservation Act grants, a \$2.4 million increase; \$95.0 million for State and Tribal Wildlife grants, a \$5.0 million increase; and \$5.0 million for Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation grants. An additional \$100.0 million for

the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund is financed through the LWCF, an increase of \$15.0 million.

North American Wetlands Conservation Act grants were the catalysts for over 100 public-private wetlands conservation partnerships that acquired, conserved, restored, and protected nearly 800,000 acres of wetlands in 2010. For over 20 years, grants made available through this program have fostered public-private partnerships to protect and improve the health and integrity of wetland and wetland-associated landscapes. Through 2010, this program, in partnership with over 4,300 private landowners, States, non-governmental conservation organizations, Tribes, Federal agencies, trusts, and corporations, has supported over 2,000 projects. These projects have supported conservation efforts in all 50 U.S. States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, 13 Canadian provinces and territories, 31 Mexican States, and the Federal District of Mexico. The FWS budget includes \$50.0 million to build on these projects that have already protected, restored, and enhanced 7.7 million acres.



State and Tribal Wildlife Grants assist States, the District of Columbia, Commonwealths, Territories, and Tribes, in protecting fish and wild-

life populations along with their habitat, including nongame species. The FWS budget requests \$95.0 million, a \$5.0 million increase, for grants to help conserve and recover imperiled fish and wildlife. To target a sizable share of the funds toward national conservation objectives, the 2012 request includes \$20.0 million to be awarded competitively to States and \$8.0 million to be awarded competitively to Tribes. Competitive allocation provides an incentive for projects to be collaborative, cost-efficient, landscape focused, and forward thinking.

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation grants support projects, which benefit more than 350 species of neotropical migratory birds that breed in the U.S. and Canada and winter in Latin America. The 2012 FWS request includes \$5.0 million for Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation grants.

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund grants, authorized by the Endangered Species Act, also are funded through the LWCF. These grants provide funds to States to work with private landowners, conservation organizations, and other partners to protect and conserve the habitat of threatened and endangered species. The 2012 request includes \$100.0 million, an increase of \$15.0 million. Together with State matching funds, the grants will be used for the development of habitat conservation plans, acquisition of lands in support of habitat conservation plans and to facilitate species recovery, as well as grants for States to improve the status of species through public education and outreach, habitat restoration, species status surveys, and captive propagation.

Historic Preservation Grants – America’s great outdoors are endowed with a vast collection of natural and cultural features that reflect both community and national character. As economic pressures, development, and the effects of time threaten the sustainability of heritage resources, locally led partnership initiatives can guide broader decision-making efforts to preserve these unique places. Working with State and local partners, NPS plays a vital role in preserving the Nation’s cultural history through a variety of programs that address historic preservation needs nationwide. The 2012 budget request includes \$62.4 million for NPS historic preservation grants, an increase of \$6.5 million above the 2010 Enacted / 2011 CR level. Of this amount, \$61.0 million is for NPS Historic Preservation Fund grants-in-aid to States and Territories, and Tribes. This is a \$6.5 million increase above the 2010 Enacted / 2011 CR level, including \$3.5 million for grants-in-aid to States and Territories and \$3.0 million to Tribes. These grants assist State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices in their efforts to protect and preserve their historic resources and carry out other activities pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act and other laws.



NPS HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANTS

The NPS works with entities in America's towns and cities to promote conservation and preservation of historic properties and collections. The NPS assists Indian Tribes, and State and local governments in their efforts to return historic buildings to productive use, recognize and promote local history, and introduce the next generation to stewardship opportunities and responsibilities.

The Historic Preservation Fund promotes public-private and Federal and non-Federal partnerships to identify and protect irreplaceable historic and archeological resources. The NPS Grants-in-Aid to States and Territories, and Tribes program supports State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, which provide grants for local historic preservation and carry out activities pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act and other laws.

These activities include:

- Comprehensive survey and inventory of historic properties.
- National Register of Historic Places nominations.
- Assistance to governments at all levels to develop and implement preservation plans and programs.
- Assistance to property owners in repairing properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- Assistance evaluating commercial property rehabilitation proposals for Federal tax incentives.

Additionally, the NPS American Battlefield Protection program grants are funded at \$1.4 million, equal with the 2010 Enacted/2011 CR level. These grants, which complement the American Battlefield Protection program land acquisition grants funded through the LWCF, assist in the preservation and protection of America's significant battlefields site identification and documentation, planning, interpretation, and educational projects.

RENEW RIVERS AND OTHER WATERS OF AMERICA

More than 3.6 million miles of rivers and streams wind through this Nation and provide America's drinking water, fuel the economy, sustain critical ecosystems, and offer endless opportunities for recreation and enjoyment. From the Columbia River to the upper Midwest prairie potholes, water has shaped the Nation's social, cultural, and economic development and enabled its prosperity.

During the America's Great Outdoors listening sessions, participants expressed a passion for the rich natural and cultural history of the Nation's waterways, impressive knowledge of their economic and ecological importance, and enthusiasm for their conservation. Hundreds of people described the steps they are taking to protect and connect with the rivers and waterways in their own communities to promote conservation, recreation, economic growth, and community redevelopment.

Federal efforts are already underway to restore and conserve several large-scale, aquatic ecosystems including the Everglades and Great Lakes. In recent decades, Federal, State, tribal and local governments, and private organizations and landowners have built effective partnerships to restore and protect these remarkable systems.

The Department's 2012 budget request targets coordinated investments to make meaningful progress toward restoration of degraded ecosystems. Interior bureaus are working together along with other Federal, State, and local entities to advance ecosystem restoration efforts with focused programs in the Everglades, California's Bay-Delta, Gulf Coast, Chesapeake Bay, Great Lakes, and Columbia River Basin. Within the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, Inte-



EVERGLADES

On January 7, 2011, Secretary Salazar announced the preliminary New Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area. This initiative will conserve working lands and wildlife habitat and is a result of the FWS efforts working with private landowners, conservation groups and Federal, tribal, State and local agencies.

The Everglades rural working ranch landscapes are an important piece of our Nation's history and economy, and this initiative would work to ensure that they remain vital for our future. The partnerships being formed would protect and improve water quality north of Lake Okeechobee, restore wetlands, and connect existing conservation lands and important wildlife corridors to support the greater Everglades restoration effort.

*Secretary Ken Salazar
January 7, 2011*

The FWS, along with its partners, is conducting a preliminary study to establish a new National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area of approximately 150,000 acres that will protect important environmental and cultural landscapes in the Kissimmee River Valley south of Orlando, Florida. The proposed area includes 50,000 acres for potential purchase from willing sellers, and an additional 100,000 acres that could be protected through conservation easements and cooperative agreements, keeping the land in private ownership.



In addition to improving water quality, the proposed conservation area and refuge would protect important habitat for 88 Federal and State listed species, including the Florida panther, Florida black bear, whooping crane, Everglade snail kite and the Eastern indigo snake. It will also link to approximately 690,000 acres of partner conserved lands. More than a dozen partners are working together through the Greater Everglades Partnership Initiative on the proposed refuge and conservation area. Their efforts are part of a larger conservation effort across south-central Florida.

rior bureaus are restoring habitat, sustaining fish and wildlife, and conserving land and increasing public access. Within California's Bay-Delta ecosystem, bureaus work in close partnership with the State of California and local authorities to restore species and the ecosystem; assist in optimizing water supplies and encourage sustainable use of Bay-Delta water; and help to deliver drought relief services and implement an integrated Bay-Delta flood risk management program.

Everglades – The 2012 budget requests a total of \$103.5 million for Everglades restoration, an increase of \$31.6 million over the 2010 Enacted/2011

CR level. This will fund important land acquisition projects at Everglades National Park and Big Cypress National Park and Preserve, as well as provide the final installment of funding for the Modified Water Deliveries project. In 2012, FWS will develop conservation plans and strategies to protect imperiled species such as the Florida panther and sea turtles; undertake recovery actions in support of 67 listed species in south Florida, such as controlling the Burmese python, an invasive species that is quickly expanding its range in Florida; and study the potential distribution and impact of environmental contaminants found in former agricultural lands that are being restored to their original wetland state.

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

On May 12, 2009, President Obama signed an Executive Order on Chesapeake Bay Protection and Restoration. The Order calls for renewed, shared leadership action to control pollution, protect and restore habitat, improve natural resource management, and accelerate water quality and ecosystem health improvements. The efforts of the past 25 years to reduce pollution and clean up the Bay and its tributaries have yielded some progress. However, the Chesapeake Bay and many of its tributaries remain in poor health. The Bay continues to be polluted, primarily by nitrogen and phosphorus from agriculture, and runoff and discharge from cities, towns, and wastewater plants. Airborne contaminants also adversely impact the Bay. Human activity and development has transformed the natural landscape. Many forests and wetlands that previously filtered pollution and provided wildlife habitat have been lost to development. Some farms have been converted to subdivisions, and suburban sprawl has led to a proliferation of roads, parking lots, and rooftops, intensifying runoff and non-point source pollution. Overharvesting of fish and shellfish has contributed to the decline of key species in the Bay. These declines have had a very significant impact on traditional Bay uses, like oystering and crabbing. Populations of oysters are at an all-time low, and habitats such as underwater grass beds and wetlands are degraded. Scientific studies suggest that the effects of climate may result in elevated sea levels, temperature changes in the water and air, and increased frequency and intensity of storms in the Chesapeake Bay.

The 2012 request includes \$33.7 million, an increase of \$12.4 million over the 2010 Enacted / 2011 CR level to expand Interior’s efforts to conserve and protect the Bay’s resources within the budget requests for USGS, FWS, and NPS. The Department has 13 wildlife refuges and 51 national park units throughout the watershed.

The 2012 budget for USGS includes an increase of \$4.6 million to restore water quality by monitoring and assessing the effectiveness of current practices to reduce nutrient and sediment loads from agricultural and urban/suburban lands in the Bay watershed; restore habitats and sustain species by documenting the occurrence of emerging contaminants in water, sediment, and fish; and work with FWS and EPA on potential management solutions and implications for reducing toxic discharges in the Bay watershed.

The 2012 budget for FWS includes an increase of \$5.0 million to restore habitats for priority species on and off FWS lands, investigate wildlife impacts from contaminant discharges, develop and expand migratory bird monitoring protocols and fish surveys, and expand opportunities for Chesapeake Bay oriented wildlife observation and public education.



The 2012 budget for NPS includes an increase of \$2.8 million, of which \$1.0 million will provide matching grants to State, local, and non-governmental partners throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed, particularly along the Bay, Susquehanna River, and other major tributaries. This funding will be used to facilitate additional or expanded public access to the Bay and tributaries. In addition, NPS will assist partners in enhancing public interpretation and education of watershed resources and stories, strengthen heritage tourism within the region, and promote citizen stewardship of the Bay.

Great Lakes – The environment of the Great Lakes region is bestowed with wide swaths of forest and wilderness areas, rich agricultural land, hundreds of tributaries, thousands of small lakes, and extensive mineral deposits. The region’s sand dunes, coastal marshes, rocky shorelines, lake plain prairies, savannas, forests, fens, wetlands, and other landscapes contain features that are globally unique. The re-

gion's glacial history and the influence of the lakes themselves create unique conditions that support a wealth of biological diversity, including over 200 globally rare plants and animals and more than 40 species that are found nowhere else in the world. The Great Lakes environment supports a world-class fisheries, with an estimated 180 species of native fish.

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

Interior continues to be a leader in the implementation of the Great Lakes Restoration initiative. The Department's 2012 budget includes \$72.9 million for Great Lakes restoration activities across the Nation. Interior also proposed \$55.5 million in 2012 project requests for the restoration initiative led by the Environmental Protection Agency. The 2010 Enacted/2011 CR includes a total allocation of \$69.5 million to FWS, USGS, NPS, and BIA from EPA for this initiative. Using this funding, the Department has initiated projects and studies involving habitat and wildlife protection and restoration, removal of invasive species, restoration of native species, adaptation strategies for cooperative landscape conservation, monitoring and removal of contaminants and toxic substances, prevention of nonpoint source pollution, and education of the public and partners on restoration efforts. For example, in 2010 FWS implemented over 130 on-the-ground habitat

restoration and enhancement projects that led to 72 grassland acres restored, 332 upland acres restored or established, and 261 wetland acres restored for migratory birds. Multiple cooperative agreements with States, Tribes, and non-governmental organizations have been implemented to control aquatic invasive species, including Asian carp, address emerging contaminant issues, conserve native lake trout and lake sturgeon populations, and protect important coastal and island habitats for migratory bird populations in the Great Lakes.

The FWS, NPS, and USGS 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. Many of the actions outlined in the jointly developed 2011 Asian Carp Control Strategy Framework were implemented. The Framework outlines seven short-term and 26 long-term actions to protect the \$7 billion Great Lakes fishing industry.

The 2012 request builds on these efforts and includes a combined increase of \$6.4 million to fund FWS and USGS in efforts to prevent the spread of Asian carp.

