

America's Great Outdoors



Easy access to quality outdoor recreation areas is something that all Americans should enjoy – whether they are young or old, live in rural or urban areas, and no matter how, take advantage of the natural world.

*Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior
October 12, 2011*

Conservation of our natural, cultural and historic resources is an American tradition, shaping the lives of individuals and the legacy of the Nation and its people. Conservation accomplishments of decades past remain today as treasured national, State, and local parks and forests, as well as historic structures and features that improve public use, access, and appreciation.

Maintaining and expanding this tradition of preserving and protecting natural and cultural heritage is one of the daunting challenges for 21st century America. Land and natural resource development have fragmented the lands, disrupted natural systems, and imperiled productive farmland and woodlands. One out of three acres developed in the United States was developed between 1982 and 2007. Annually, the U.S. now loses about 1.6 million acres of working farms, ranches, and forests to de-

velopment and fragmentation. Many rivers, lakes, coasts, and streams are polluted. Public lands are plagued by invasive species. The Nation's natural legacy constantly faces new challenges with consequences yet to be fully understood.

In April 2010, President Obama launched the America's Great Outdoors initiative, resulting in the largest conservation-related public dialog in the Nation's history. In public listening sessions and visits across the Country, this Administration heard loud and clear that Americans care about this legacy and want to pass along a clean and healthy environment to the next generation. In February of 2011, the Department of the Interior and other Federal agencies submitted a report that summarized these listening sessions and identified ten major goals and 75 action items to advance this initiative.

RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDED IN THE AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS REPORT FEBRUARY 2011

- Provide Quality Jobs, Career Pathways, and Service Opportunities.
- Enhance Recreational Access and Opportunities.
- Raise Awareness of the Value and Benefits of America's Great Outdoors.
- Engage Young People in Conservation and the Great Outdoors.
- Strengthen the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
- Establish Great Urban Parks and Community Green Spaces.
- Conserve Rural Working Farms, Ranches, and Forests Through Partnerships and Incentives.
- Conserve and Restore National Parks, Wildlife Refuges, Forests, and Other Federal Lands and Waters.
- Protect and Renew Rivers and Other Waters.
- Make the Federal Government a More Effective Conservation Partner.

The America's Great Outdoors initiative encourages our citizens to get outdoors and rediscover adventures in our own backyard. From coasts and mountains to farmlands and forests, our Country is rich in cultural and natural treasures. We must continue to do all we can to make sure we have healthy and accessible lands and waters to enjoy for generations to come. Outdoor recreation and tourism related businesses have become powerful elements of rural and urban economic development.

*Gary Locke, Former Secretary of Commerce
June 13, 2011*

2013 BUDGET SUMMARY

The 2013 President's budget request maintains the Interior Department's commitment to its stewardship of America's Great Outdoors with a request of \$5.1 billion, a \$145.6 million total increase compared to the 2012 enacted level. Funding in support of this initiative is focused in three areas: land management operations including youth programs; programs funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, including Federal land acquisition and recreation and conservation grant programs in the Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service; and historic preservation as well as technical assistance

programs that promote conservation and improve recreational access, particularly in urban areas.

Land management operations will receive \$4.6 billion, an increase of \$26.2 million compared to 2012. This request provides \$1.1 billion to the Bureau of Land Management, \$1.2 billion to FWS, and \$2.3 billion to NPS for operations.

The budget includes a total of \$449.9 million for LWCF programs that conserve lands and support outdoor recreation within Interior and the Forest

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS (dollars in millions)			
	2012	2013	Change
LAND MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS			
Bureau of Land Management	1,072.2	1,064.1	-8.2
Fish and Wildlife Service.....	1,226.2	1,247.0	+20.9
National Park Service.....	2,236.6	2,250.1	+13.5
Subtotal, Land Management Operations	4,535.0	4,561.2	+26.2
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAMS			
Federal Land Acquisition.....	146.6	212.0	+65.4
State Grants	44.9	60.0	+15.1
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund*	25.0	60.0	+35.0
Subtotal, LWCF Programs	216.5	332.0	+115.5
OTHER GRANT PROGRAMS			
Partnership Programs.....	100.6	104.5	+3.9
Historic Preservation and Battlefield Grants	57.3	57.3	0.0
Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance	9.9	10.0	+0.1
Subtotal, Other Grant Programs	167.8	171.8	+4.0
TOTAL	4,919.3	5,065.0	+145.6

* In 2012, only \$25.0 was appropriated by Congress from the LWCF. The total appropriation for this program was \$47.7 million. The 2013 budget proposes to fund all of the CESCFC from the LWCF.

Service. Of this amount, Interior Land and Water Conservation Fund programs will receive \$332.0 million, a total increase of \$115.5 million over the 2012 enacted level. This includes \$212.0 million for Federal land acquisition, \$60.0 million for FWS Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund grants, and \$60.0 million for NPS State Assistance grants.

Other assistance programs such as FWS conservation grants, NPS historic preservation grants, and NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance will receive \$171.8 million, an increase of \$4.0 million. Of this amount, \$104.5 million is for FWS conservation grants, \$57.3 million for NPS preservation grants, and \$10.0 million for Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance.

CONNECTING AMERICANS TO THE GREAT OUTDOORS

National parks are amazing places where exercise is disguised as adventure, and we sneak in some learning too.

**Jon Jarvis, Director
National Park Service
August 11, 2010**

Approximately 20 percent of U.S. lands—more than 500 million acres—are managed and protected by Interior’s land management agencies. These Federal lands contain ecosystems as diverse as the coastal mountains of BLM’s King Range National Conservation Area in California, the unique and diverse tall grass prairies of FWS’ Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area in Kansas, and the southern Appalachian ecosystems of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina and Tennessee; and an inspiring array of natural, cultural, and historic resources. The 60,000 mile federally managed National Trails System provides a cross-section of many of these diverse landscapes.

Public lands offer millions of visitors wide-ranging opportunities to make a personal connection to the outdoors. They may do this through the solitude of backcountry hiking; the exhilaration of climbing, skiing, snowboarding, or river rafting; the pride of learning about historic places, or the satisfaction of volunteer service. Public lands provide water resources, wildlife habitat, recreation, educational value, and other benefits to the American people.



The Nation’s mountains, prairies, coasts, deserts, lakes, and rivers also provide essential ecosystem services that benefit all Americans. Public lands contain important watersheds that supply drinking water to millions. Many of America’s most iconic wildlife species—bison, moose, and bald eagle, among them—greatly depend on public lands for survival.

The 2013 budget includes \$4.6 billion to fund the operations that conserve and maintain these public lands. The following sections highlight the operational budget for each land management bureau in 2013.

LAND MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS

Operation of the Interior’s land management infrastructure is 40.1 percent of the Department’s 2013 budget request. These programs support the day-to-day operations of the 397 national park units, 556 national wildlife refuges, and BLM’s 21 national conservation areas and similarly designated areas and 16 national monuments. Public lands provide access for recreation, opportunities to learn, and conservation of important natural places and native fish and wildlife. These areas are the face of America, welcoming 386 million visitors each year from all around the world, showcasing the treasures of the Nation’s history, and offering the opportunity to experience the Nation’s iconic places and symbols first hand. There are an additional 90 million visits to Reclamation sites. In 2010, American and international travelers to these lands contributed nearly \$47.9 billion in economic activity and 388,000 jobs. In total, hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation contribute an estimated \$730 billion to the U.S. economy each year. More than 12 million Americans hunt,

PUBLIC LANDS: SERVICE TO OUR VETERANS

We must honor the remarkable service and sacrifices of our military families by doing all we can to provide them the support and quality of life they deserve. ...Under President Obama's leadership and on behalf of a grateful Nation, I look forward to working across the Federal family to expand opportunities for military families and to honor their commitment to our Country.

*Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior
January 24, 2011*

Support of military families is an important aspect of the America's Great Outdoors initiative, which calls for connecting all Americans with the outdoors and with America's history and culture. For American veterans returning from service to their Country, the public lands managed by Interior can provide not only a wide variety of recreational activities, but also an opportunity to enhance physical and emotional well-being while connecting with the values they fought to protect. Interior is working with the Department of Defense and others to provide expanded opportunities for active duty and veteran members of the armed services as well their families to use public lands and recreational facilities for recovery, with a particular emphasis on supporting wounded warriors in their efforts to regain psychological health, reintegration with family, and rehabilitation.

Support of young veterans and children also is a major part of Interior's youth programs. These programs aim to reconnect America's youth with nature, encourage physical exercise, and provide educational, recreational, and employment opportunities for youth in conservation. Interior is one of the largest Federal employers of youth ages 15-25 in conservation and is partnering with the Defense Department to identify employment opportunities for children in military families.

Interior also offers diverse employment opportunities for veterans as they transition to the civilian world. These men and women possess special leadership skills that will greatly benefit the Department across all its bureaus and programs. Through partnerships with entities such as the Defense's Operation Warfighter program and the Feds Hire Vets initiative, Interior is committed to providing veterans the opportunity to start their next careers on the very public lands they are committed to preserving.

The following examples highlight a few of the specific ways that Interior provides recreational and employment opportunities to veterans.

- The BLM Glennallen, Alaska Field Office partnered with Project Healing Waters, Fly Fishing, to host a fishing trip to the Delta Wild and Scenic River. Project Healing Waters is a national nonprofit organization that organizes fly fishing outings to help physically and emotionally rehabilitate wounded soldiers, veterans, and their families. The project teaches injured vets and soldiers and their families the healing powers of flyfishing and being on the water in the great outdoors.
- Each FWS region disseminates information on job opportunities and education programs directly to military service members, using a tracking system of over 300 military transition centers and installations world-wide.
- The NPS' Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument participates in the Operation Warfighter program as part of the park's "Post to Parks" outreach strategy to engage and connect with military personnel and their families in the nearby Colorado Springs area. As part of this program, a veteran with 20 years of Army contracting and construction experience assisted the park as it built its first permanent visitor center.

more than 30 million Americans fish and three out of four Americans engage in some kind of healthy outdoor activity. One in twenty U.S. jobs are in the recreation economy.

Included within the \$4.6 billion 2013 request for land management operations is \$2.5 billion for visitor related activities in the national park system, national wildlife refuge system, and BLM's national monuments and national conservation areas, a \$20.9 million increase relative to 2012. These funds enable the Department to continue to offer public access to priority areas and engaging interpretation programs. Interior lands sponsor an expansive number of volunteers that return annually to provide services to the public. The BLM, FWS, and NPS benefit from nearly 306,000 volunteers who provide nearly 9.7 million hours of service, valued at \$195 million per year.

Operational funding not only enables the visitor experience but enables the Department to carry out its public stewardship mission in these special places. These vast public lands hold some of the most significant evidence of human prehistory in America, as well as important artifacts and items of colonial and American history. Interior's management of a variety of culturally and historically significant sites, from long abandoned archaeological sites to iconic civil rights landmarks, gives the Nation important insights into the development of the American character. Hands on interpretive programs across the Country bring America's history to life for a whole new generation. Preserving, interpreting, and maintaining these sites is an important responsibility owed to future generations. Additionally, discovering, studying, and understanding the evidence of past human influences on the land can give Interior land managers and the public critically important information as plans are made on how to use public lands today and in the future.

Interior's parks, refuges, and other public lands contain many of the Nation's most trea-



sured landscapes, from the majestic mountain ranges of Alaska to the vast sawgrass prairies of the Everglades. To safeguard these treasures, the land management bureaus, along with the U.S. Geological Survey, combine the best available science with innovative education and stewardship programs to manage for the conservation of these resources and the species that inhabit public lands.

ENJOYING THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Bureau	Visits to Interior's Public Lands
BLM.....	57,775,000
FWS.....	47,419,995
NPS.....	281,303,769
TOTAL	386,498,764

In 2013, the budget features program increases in the application of science on the public lands. This includes an increase of \$2.0 million for BLM to conduct new research into population growth suppression methods to control wild horse reproduction. The FWS will use \$6.0 million for Endangered Species Act consultations related to pesticides, inventory and monitoring on refuge lands, and the control of invasive species. Of this total, \$1.0 million will be used to answer scientific questions about the effects of pesticides on imperiled species to inform the review of Environmental Protection Agency water quality related proposals and to identify water quality levels and safe pesticide use practices. Another \$3.0 million will be used to further the national refuge Inventory and Monitoring initiative launched by the FWS in 2010 to increase its collective ability to inventory and monitor wildlife and habitats to inform conservation actions; and \$2.0 million will support the development of a comprehensive early detection and surveillance program for Asian carp through scientific studies to advance control and prevention in the Great Lakes and Upper Mississippi River Basin, which can be exported to other high-risk ecosystems and habitats such as the California Bay-Delta, and Columbia River Basin.

Bureau of Land Management – The 2013 BLM budget request for land management operations is \$1.1 billion, a decrease of \$8.2 million from the 2012 enacted level.

The request for Management of Lands and Resources of \$952.0 million includes \$6.3 million



in programmatic increases that benefit cultural resources, recreation management programs, and the National Landscape Conservation System units, which are recognized to have outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific value. These investments will enhance and improve recreational access and opportunities, raise awareness of the value and benefits of America's Great Outdoors, and conserve and restore valuable cultural resources.

A \$1.1 million program increase in Cultural Resources Management will allow BLM to conduct inventories and surveys to determine the presence of archaeological, paleontological, and historical resources, conduct stabilization and protection projects, and expand interpretation and information sharing. In part, this will be used to address a number of museum collection inventories and assessments, a need identified by the Office of Inspector General in 2008.

As part of a \$2.2 million programmatic increase proposed in Recreational Resources Management, BLM will use \$1.1 million to continue to develop and implement 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 BLM will direct the other \$1.1 million to implement management plans for national scenic and historic trails and national wild and scenic rivers to strengthen the protection of these special places. This will include inventorying, monitoring, protecting and enhancing the remarkable values on the wild and scenic rivers. The BLM will perform similar work on national trails, and also conduct annual maintenance and interpretative activities. Annually, there are nearly 58 million visits to BLM lands. All told, the estimated impact of recreation on BLM lands is \$7.4 billion, supporting an estimated

60,000 jobs each year. Visitors participate in recreational activities such as wildlife watching, hiking, camping, whitewater rafting, and OHV racing.

The request includes a \$3.0 million program increase in the National Monuments and National Conservation Areas program that will enable BLM to strengthen management of the 37 separate units of the National Landscape Conservation System. The increased funds will allow BLM to increase the protection of archeological and natural sites with enhanced law enforcement; increase assessments, inventories, monitoring, and science and research projects to enhance the understanding of these units; and expand interpretative programs and products to respond to a growing number of visitors.

Fish and Wildlife Service—The 2013 budget request for the Resource Management account is \$1.2 billion, an increase of \$20.9 million above the 2012 level. The budget request continues to advance key goals of the America's Great Outdoors initiative. The national wildlife refuge system has unique authorities and flexible programs that deliver landscape level conservation while at the same time providing outdoor recreation, hunting, and fishing opportunities and protecting wildlife populations. Annually, more than 47.4 million visitors come to refuges to hunt, fish, observe, and photograph wildlife and participate in environmental education and interpretive programs, generating almost \$4.0 billion in economic activity and creating more than 32,000 private sector jobs nationwide. 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 to protect important habitat features on private working lands.



The 2013 budget requests a program increase of \$10.2 million for the refuge system. Of the requested funding increase, \$3.0 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. To date, inventories have been conducted on more than 30 refuges and the inventory and monitoring data management system has been used to mine and catalogue the wealth of scientific information that already exists on refuges and in FWS regional offices. Currently, over 100 field stations have been catalogued, which will allow the refuge system to identify what inventories are being conducted across regions and landscapes and to identify data gaps.



The Inventory and Monitoring initiative provides funding and staff support to produce products directly relevant to refuge management needs now, as well as long-term strategies for managing complicated systems in a rapidly changing landscape. These include funding 43 hydrogeomorphic analyses, 38 water resource inventory assessments, 69 sea-level rise models for coastal refuges, integrated invasive species maps, and investments in upgrades to the National Wetland Inventory. There are currently 13 refuges with established phenological monitoring partnerships, and 69 have conducted sea level rise modeling. These activities will allow refuge managers to establish biological baselines as the basis to conduct vulnerability assessments and protect and restore natural landscapes with native vegetation and provide increased connectivity for use by at-risk species. Also included for the refuge system is a program increase of \$3.6 million for Challenge Cost Share projects to implement habitat restoration projects with local partners and volunteer groups. These funds will be used by refuges to conduct

ASIAN CARP PREVENTION AND CONTROL

The migration of Asian carp through the upper Mississippi River Basin is one of the most acute threats facing the Great Lakes and their \$7 billion fishery industry. Asian carp also pose a significant threat to other highly valued aquatic ecosystems including the California Bay-Delta and Columbia River Basin. The 2013 budget builds on Asian carp prevention and control efforts funded in the 2012 U.S. Geological Survey and Fish and Wildlife Service budgets.

In 2011, USGS began conducting research as part of the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee, which is the Federal response to the threat of Asian carp becoming established in the Great Lakes. Predicting tributaries that might provide suitable habitat for Asian carp spawning is a critical step toward focusing monitoring and control efforts. On the basis of models developed using hydrological data and the results of egg and larval fish development experiments, USGS scientists predicted that six of eight tributaries to Lake Erie could support spawning of bighead and silver carp. A program increase of \$3.0 million in the USGS 2013 budget will augment current support for providing scientific information and methodologies to better prevent, detect, and control Asian carp. The proposed increase will enable research to accelerate beyond the “proof of concept” stage and focus on transferring technology to managers for field use.

The 2013 FWS budget includes a program increase of \$900,000 for traditional gear sampling as part of a comprehensive surveillance and monitoring program for Asian carp species in the Great Lakes. An additional program increase of \$2.0 million in 2013 will support the development of a comprehensive early detection and surveillance program for Asian carp through the establishment of eDNA labs at FWS’ Regional Fish Technology Centers. This sampling will be conducted in high-risk ecosystems and habitats such as the California Bay-Delta, Mississippi River Basin, and Columbia River Basin.

projects, which are small in cost, but have a big impact including improving habitat for wildlife use and removing barriers to species recovery.

The 2013 budget includes \$5.4 million for a cross program Cooperative Recovery initiative to implement endangered species recovery actions on national wildlife refuges and in surrounding ecosystems. With nearly 300 listed species located in or around units of the national wildlife refuge system, the ecosystems surrounding refuges provide important habitat for listed species, and can provide essential connectivity for species conservation. Funding will support a cross programmatic partnership approach to complete planning, restoration, and management actions addressing current threats to endangered species on and around wildlife refuges. The NWRs will partner with Fisheries, Endangered Species, Partners for Fish and Wildlife, and Migratory Birds to work under the Strategic Habitat Conservation framework, and in consultation with Landscape Conservation Cooperatives to consider proposals for endangered species recovery projects on refuges and surrounding ecosystems.

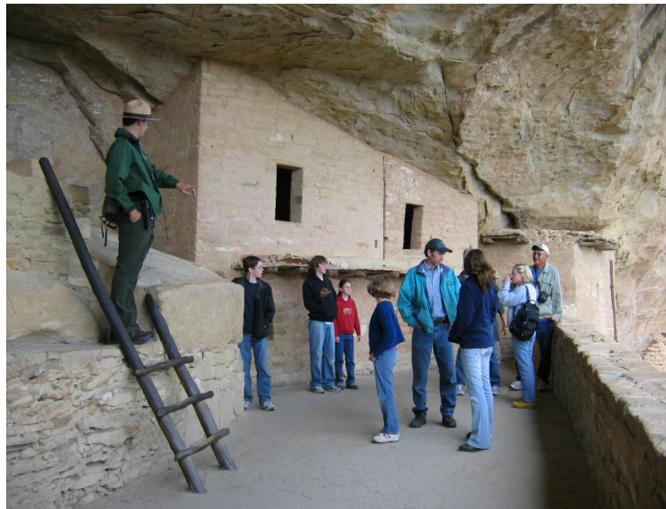
National Park Service –

The 2013 budget request for park operations is \$2.3 billion, an increase of \$13.5 million above the 2012 level. This includes increases of \$26.0 million for fixed costs and \$12.2 million in program increases. These increases are offset with \$24.8 million in strategic program reductions to park operations and servicewide programs. The NPS manages 397 park units, conserving and interpreting resources as unique and diverse as the mountains, temperate rainforests, and beaches of Olympic National Park; the solemn yet grand vistas of Gettysburg National Military Park; and the Statue of Liberty, a universal symbol of freedom and democracy. The NPS shared the stories and breathtaking beauty of

these sites with more than 281 million visitors last year. These visitors, in turn, create an economic impact of \$30.4 billion, and support an estimated 247,000 jobs.

The NPS will continue to engage visitors in the great outdoors and protect and interpret cultural and natural resources. The budget includes an increase of \$610,000 for the Challenge Cost Share program, for a total program of \$1.0 million. The CCS program, a partnership component of America’s Great Outdoors, provides matching funds to cooperate with partners on projects that preserve and improve NPS natural, cultural, and recreational resources. The 2013 budget includes program increases to enhance critical resource stewardship activities, including an additional \$5.0 million for Climate Change Adaptive Management tools,

for a total funding of \$8.0 million, to support climate-related monitoring systems and the development of appropriate land, water, and wildlife adaptation strategies. The NPS monitors the most vulnerable parks in high elevations, high latitudes, arid lands, and coastal areas for climate effects, such as melting permafrost in Alaska and salt marsh salinity along the South



Atlantic coast. The NPS takes action to mitigate the effects of climate change on park resources based on feedback obtained by this monitoring. The 2013 proposal includes a program increase of \$250,000 for NPS to expand integrated ocean and coastal stewardship activities by working with its partners at 74 park units adjacent to an ocean or the Great Lakes ecosystem, consistent with the Administration’s *Final Recommendations of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force* report. The NPS will continue restoration activities in key water-based ecosystems, such as the Everglades.

YOUTH IN AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Interior bureaus engaged youth by:

Providing Quality Jobs, Career Pathways and Service Opportunities

Interior increased opportunities for jobs, training, and service in the great outdoors to put young Americans back to work now with benefits that will last long into the future. Interior:

- Employed over 21,000 youth across the country in full and part-time jobs and internships and across a range of duties from building trails to inventorying species.
- Partnered with HistoriCorps to provide job training and heritage education for youth, veterans, and unemployed Americans in projects that preserve America's historic and cultural treasures.
- Launched the YouthGO.gov portal in January 2011, a tool of the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture to provide information on education programs, outdoor activities, and job opportunities.
- Continued partnerships with Volunteers in Service to America to employ youth in watershed assistance programs to restore lands that were degraded from historic mining.

Enhancing Recreational Access and Opportunities

Interior's increased recreational access to America's lands and waters presents enjoyable opportunities to connect with family and friends and enhances health and wellness. Interior:

- Encouraged Americans to explore America's natural beauty, rich history, and culture by hosting free entrance days in BLM, FWS, and NPS to commemorate events and holidays.
- Supported free nation-wide recreational events, including National Kids to Parks Day, National Get Outdoors Day, and National Trails Day for more than 100,000 kids and their families.

Raising Awareness of the Value and Benefits of America's Great Outdoors

Interior promoted early experiences in nature and at historic places inspiring a lasting connection and commitment to service in the outdoors. Interior:

- Developed new formal education programs modeled after the Forest Service's "Forest for Every Classroom" such as "A Trail to Every Classroom" and "A Park for Every Classroom," to engage teachers and students in place based service and learning opportunities.
- Worked with partners to host more than 100 Let's Move Outside! inspired events on public lands and waters.

Engaging Young People in Conservation and the Great Outdoors

Interior enlisted America's young people, the Nation's future stewards, to learn about their heritage, and help create outdoor spaces that are safe, clean, affordable, and accessible. Interior:

- Hosted over 100 National Get Outdoors Day and National Trail Day events and hosted 19 Let's Move Outside! "Catch a Special Thrill" events.
- Hosted more than 2,000 National Public Lands Day events that engaged 180,000 people in conservation service projects on public lands and waters. Emphasized the link between healthy lands and healthy people through Let's Move Outside! tools and other education programs.

The Let's Move Outside! program in our national parks provides a wonderful way for parents to help their children gain a passion for outdoor recreation while teaching them about our Nation's beautiful lands, our rich cultural heritage, and our storied past.

*Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior
June 17, 2010*

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

There can be nothing in the world more beautiful than the Yosemite, the groves of the giant sequoias and redwoods, the Canyon of the Colorado, the Canyon of the Yellowstone, the Three Tetons; and our people should see to it that they are preserved for their children and their children's children forever, with their majestic beauty all unmarred.

*President Theodore Roosevelt
1905*



Conserving large landscapes requires collaboration among all stakeholders, including private landowners, conservation and recreation groups, and local, State, tribal, and Federal governments. America's Great Outdoors calls for broad collaboration around locally driven priorities and more efficient and coordinated ways of investing in, restoring, and managing the Country's natural and cultural resources.

Created in 1964, the LWCF helps preserve, develop, and assure access to outdoor recreation resources; provide clean water; preserve wildlife habitat; enhance scenic vistas; protect archeological and historical sites; and maintain the pristine nature of wilderness by providing funds for Federal land acquisition and grants. 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. A total of \$33.5 billion has been collected into the Fund since its inception, of which \$15.8 billion has been used to

acquire lands and provide grants to States. The rest of the collections remain in balances in the Fund, subject to congressional appropriation.

Federal Land Acquisition – In 2013 the Federal land acquisition request through the LWCF includes \$212.0 million for Interior, plus an additional \$57.9 million for the Forest Service for a total request of \$269.9 million. Of this amount, \$161.3 million is for mission specific core land acquisition priority projects and program management across both agencies. In 2013, the Administration proposes targeting the remaining \$108.6 million for a Forest Service-Interior collaborative land acquisition program to support strategic interagency landscape-scale conservation projects that also meet agency specific acquisition needs. Interior requests \$83.6 million for its three bureaus and the Forest Service requests the remaining \$25.0 million.

President Obama has made it clear that conservation is a priority for this Administration. We will continue to invest in land and water projects that have the backing of communities who depend on the job-creating power of the outdoor economy.

*Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior
October 12, 2011*

As part of the landscape program, Interior bureaus collaborated extensively with the Forest Service and with government and local community partners to plan projects to achieve the highest priority shared conservation goals most effectively. A Technical Advisory Committee, made up of BLM, FWS, NPS, and Forest Service, identified a number of ecosystems throughout the Nation where high priority shared conservation goals can be achieved. The Committee ranked the projects according to criteria that included:

- **Process** – Ensure proposals are community-driven, collaborative and cost-effective.
- **Outcome** – Ensure proposals contribute to informed, science based, important local landscape-scale outcomes, so Federal resources are strategically achieving land management objectives.
- **Urgency** – Ensure funding decisions acknowledge where funds must be spent sooner rather than later to achieve out-

comes or prevent harm, versus areas where outcomes could be achieved even if funding were postponed.

- Contribution to national and regional priorities – Ensure outcome goals contribute to regional and national priorities.

Then the National Selection Committee, made up of Bureau Directors or Deputy Directors, considered these scores as well as their own knowledge about Department and bureau activities and priorities to develop a recommendation for the Secretaries. With the Secretaries input, a final list of collaborative proposals to include in the funding request was developed. Through the rigorous merit based evaluation process, multiple ecosystems were evaluated and prioritized, leading to the selection of the Northern Rockies and the Florida-Georgia Longleaf landscapes, as well as an initial investment in the Greater Yellowstone landscape.

Investing now in these ecologically important and threatened landscapes will ensure they remain resilient in the face of development pressures and global change. Smart investment in strategic conservation on a landscape-scale focuses on select areas for acquisition by multiple Federal agencies in concert with State and local efforts. These coordinated efforts will protect large areas to maximize ecosystem values, support at-risk species, and prevent further ecosystem decline or collapse, thereby precluding the need for restoration. The proposed Federal investments in these landscapes will leverage significant private commitments to land and water conservation in the Crown of the Continent and Longleaf Pine ecosystems.

In the Northern Rockies landscape, BLM, FWS, NPS, and the Forest Service aim to build resiliency in ecological systems and communities, so that, even as climate conditions change, this collaborative area will continue to support a full range of native biodiversity. Building ecological resiliency includes maintaining intact, interconnected landscapes and restoring fragmented or degraded habitats. The agencies have engaged in long standing collaborations with non-government organization partners, local community groups such as the Blackfoot Challenge and Rocky Mountain Front Landowner Advisory Group, and State and county government officials to tailor a Federal conservation strategy and acquisition program that achieves a synergy between private rights, open space, traditional land uses, and conservation. This shared vision, developed over

years of collaboration, includes maintaining working ranches and forests by acquiring conservation easements as well as acquiring lands in fee that will provide public access and enjoyment.



The planned acquisitions will contribute to species conservation for an array of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. The Northern Rockies landscape falls within the greater Crown of the Continent ecosystem and serves as the southern “bookend” for the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation initiative. It is home to a number of large game species, including antelope, elk, deer, and moose which range throughout the acquisition area, which includes hunting and other historic uses. The acquisitions will achieve conservation goals for multiple species and implement important components of State wildlife action plans as well as other conservation plans including Partners in Flight, endangered species recovery plans, forest management plans, and agency general management and Interior and Agriculture departmental level strategic plans.

Tracts identified in the Florida-Georgia Longleaf initiative landscape are crucial to the ecological well-being and recovery of the diminishing longleaf pine ecosystem in the South. Longleaf pines, which once covered up to 98 million acres of the Southeast have been reduced to three million acres, much of it in poor condition. Collaborative regional efforts to address this decline have been underway for over 15 years, with strong public-private partnerships like the Longleaf Alliance bringing together private landowners, forest industries, State and Federal agencies, and conservation groups and researchers to work on collaborative solutions. Federal agencies drew from Florida wildlife habitat gap analyses, recovery plans, other Florida and Federal natural resource assessments and initiatives, and local government and general public input to develop a plan for land acquisition that targets the most critical conserva-



tion needs. Based on this plan, State and local governments and conservation non-profit groups such as The Nature Conservancy worked closely with Federal agencies to secure these tracts to allow sufficient time for the United States to acquire them. The Forest Service is also leveraging Forest Legacy grant funding to protect this ecosystem.

Many threatened and endangered species are reliant on the qualities that can only be found in the longleaf pine ecosystem. The endangered red-cockaded woodpecker is the keystone species for this ecosystem. The BLM, FWS, FS, and the State of Florida have collaborated over the last 20 years to dramatically grow the woodpecker populations and promote the recovery of the longleaf pine ecosystem through the Red-cockaded Woodpecker Southern Range Translocation Cooperative. The acquisitions will protect and expand critical wildlife areas and the Florida National Scenic Trail corridor.



The Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee was formed in 1964 to provide a coordinated effort to protect the ecological integrity and outstanding natural resources of the Greater Yellowstone landscape. This long standing organization of stakeholders is collaborating with Federal agencies, non-governmental organization partners, local community groups such as the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance and Greater Yellowstone Coalition, and State and county government officials to design a Federal acquisition program that will complement existing landownership, honor traditional land uses, and conserve this unique landscape for future generations.

The collective vision crafted by these organizations includes acquisition of land and conservation easements that will contribute to species conservation and will secure habitat connectivity for large game species including elk, deer, and moose. The network of protected lands in this ecosystem supports a robust local tourism economy, which draws millions of tourists annually for outdoor recreation, hunting, and angling. Development of unprotected lands in this area is an urgent threat to the landscape's ecological integrity and to the rural character of the landscape, which underpins the area's tourism economy.

Core Land Acquisition Projects – While the collaborative land acquisition program supports strategic interagency landscape-scale conservation projects, the 2013 request for Federal land acquisition also includes \$58.2 million for core land acquisition projects in BLM, FWS, and NPS. The core land acquisition projects facilitate management of bureau specific mission priorities. The three Interior land management bureaus use prioritization systems that consider multiple factors when determining which lands to acquire. These criteria include the mission value of planned acquisitions, feasibility of acquiring and operating lands, the availability of willing sellers, the potential of imminent development of property, and the participation of partners.

The BLM, FWS, and NPS acquire important properties available for sale by willing sellers through fee title and easement. Lands are normally acquired at fair market value or through partial or total full donations of property. Landowners can also sell or donate easements on their property while keeping the land in private ownership. Most lands acquired are additions to park units, national wildlife refuges, national monuments, and national conservation areas. Acquisition also results in additions to other

areas including national wild and scenic rivers, national historic trails, and wilderness areas. Lands are acquired to protect important natural and cultural resources, to consolidate land within the boundaries of existing units, to provide public access to Federal management units, and to improve recreational use.

The access of hunters and anglers to the public lands is often frustrated by complicated “checkerboard” land ownership patterns. The request includes \$2.5 million to purchase hunting and fishing access easements to alleviate some of these challenges and provide better access to valuable public recreation opportunities.

In 2013, NPS proposes \$5.0 million to acquire threatened or vulnerable land within the national park system to protect significant Civil War battlefield sites, and as part of the NPS effort to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the war. In addition, the budget also includes \$9.0 million for American Battlefield Protection program land acquisition grants. These matching grants provide much needed resources to States and local governments to preserve and protect threatened Civil War battlefield sites outside the national park system. Private non-profit entities may also apply in partnership with a State or local agency. These grants support the fee simple acquisition of land, or the acquisition of permanent, protective interests in land, at Civil War battlefields listed in the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission’s 1993 *Report on the Nation’s Civil War Battlefields*.



LWCF Grant Programs – Federal land acquisition through the LWCF is complimented by matching grants that fund State and local activities. Three grant programs are supported through the Fund: NPS State Assistance grants; FWS Cooperative En-

dangered Species Conservation Fund grants; and FS Forest Legacy grants. Since the enactment of the Land and Water Conservation Act in 1964, the Fund has provided \$15.8 billion to acquire new Federal lands and for grants to States.

State Assistance Grants – Administered by the NPS, this program provides matching grants to States, and through States to local governments, for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. The program helps States and local communities create and maintain high quality recreation areas and facilities and stimulates investments in the protection and maintenance of recreation resources across the United States. In 2010, the Federal investment of \$37.3 million resulted in an economic impact of \$102.0 million and supported 724 jobs.

Most of the grants awarded to States have gone to locally sponsored projects to provide close-to-home recreation opportunities that are readily accessible to Americans across all walks of life and physical abilities. In addition to the thousands of smaller recreation areas, grants have helped to acquire and develop new parks of State-wide or national significance such as the Allagash Wilderness Waterway in Maine, Liberty State Park in New Jersey, the Willamette River Greenway in Oregon, and the Platte River Park in Colorado. In 2010 alone, LWCF stewardship protection was expanded by a total of 34,367 acres and 133 park sites. Additionally, 214 local park and recreation areas were enhanced with grants to develop new or rehabilitate existing outdoor recreation and support facilities.

In 2013, the budget proposes \$60.0 million, a programmatic increase of \$14.9 million over the 2012 enacted level. Included within this request, is \$36.5 million that would be allocated to States through a formula. An additional \$20.0 million would be allocated to States based on a competitive process targeting priority projects that support the America’s Great Outdoors initiative. This component will promote projects that support both outdoor recreation and conservation in urban areas where access to open space is limited; protect, restore, and connect natural landscapes; and provide access to rivers and waterways.

Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund Grants – Because more than half of all species currently listed as endangered or threatened spend at least part of their life on privately owned lands, the Department recognizes that success in conserving

species will ultimately depend on working cooperatively with landowners, communities, and Tribes to foster voluntary stewardship efforts. States play a key role in catalyzing these efforts.

The CESCFC, authorized by the Endangered Species Act and funded through the LWCF, provides grants to States and Territories to participate in a wide array of voluntary conservation projects for candidate, proposed, and listed species on non-Federal lands. For example, a grant awarded in 2011 will be used to acquire a permanent conservation easement on over 3,550 acres outside of the towns of Makawao and Haiku on the Island of Maui. The property is at the center of the 100,000 acre East Maui Watershed Partnership managed by six major landowners. The property provides habitat for 13 rare or endangered birds, including the akohekohe or crested honeycreeper and the Maui parrotbill, which are among the rarest birds in the Nation. It is also critical habitat for Geranium multiflorum and eight other federally listed plants, as well as a number of other rare plants and animals.



The 2013 budget includes \$60.0 million for CESCFC grants. These funds would be leveraged with State funds 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.

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

The America's Great Outdoors initiative is rooted in strong partnerships with States, local communities, and other stakeholders to establish a conservation and recreation ethic for the 21st century."

*Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior
October 20, 2011*

Partnerships are a key component of Interior's delivery of programs. Partnerships underpin nearly every program and provide a critically important connection to local communities, interested constituencies, and diverse populations. They are key to the success of the America's Great Outdoors initiative. In communities across the Nation, Interior works with State, local, and tribal governments; local communities; non-governmental organizations; and citizens to realize the wide-ranging benefits of a revitalized connection to the outdoors. 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 Department, through the FWS and NPS, administers technical assistance programs and a number of grant programs that are leveraged with partners.

Conservation Grants – Interior's 2013 budget includes \$104.5 million, an increase of \$3.9 million above the 2012 enacted level for FWS conservation grant programs. These grants are in addition to \$60.0 million requested for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund through the LWCF, described above.

North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants – The NAWCA grant program provides grants



LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS

Just as we have done in Kansas, Montana and the Dakotas, our locally driven, cooperative approach to conserving the Everglades Headwaters will help grow a robust outdoor recreation economy for central Florida, while preserving ranchers' rights to live off the land.

*Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior
January 18, 2012*

On January 18, 2012, the Secretary accepted the first donation of land in south-central Florida to officially establish the Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area, conserving one of the last great grassland and savanna landscapes of eastern North America. Still largely rural, this greater Everglades area is a mosaic of seasonally wet grasslands, longleaf pine savannas, and cattle ranches that sustains one of the most important assemblages of imperiled vertebrate wildlife in the southeast United States and a large portion of the unprotected natural habitat remaining in peninsular Florida.



The new refuge and conservation area – the 556th unit of the national wildlife refuge system – was established with the support of local ranchers, farmers, and landowners who are working cooperatively with FWS and the Department to conserve the wildlife values on their lands while retaining their right to raise livestock or crops, an approach championed by this Administration.

The FWS is working closely with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and other State agencies, conservation organizations, users groups, and Tribes. The extraordinary vision of these partners will help protect significant wildlife species while supporting a way of life that is vital to local residents. This effort will restore wetlands in the headwaters area, as well as increase opportunities to hunt, fish, hike, bird watch, and learn about the importance of this landscape. In 2013, the budget requests \$3.0 million for FWS land acquisition continue to build the refuge.

If fully realized, the refuge and conservation area will span 150,000 acres north of Lake Okeechobee. Two-thirds of the acreage, or 100,000 acres, will be protected through conservation easements purchased from willing sellers. With easements, private landowners retain ownership of their land, as well as the ability to continue farming or ranching the land. The easements would protect the land from future subdivision or development. The Everglades, which receives water from the Kissimmee River Valley, will benefit from the conservation and restoration of its headwaters through enhanced water quality, quantity, and storage.

The establishment of the new refuge and conservation area is one of a series of conservation projects under this Administration to work locally with landowners, conservation stakeholders, and State, tribal, and local governments to conserve vital habitat on working landscapes. These include:

- The million-acre Flint Hills Legacy Conservation Area in Kansas, which will help maintain the integrity of tallgrass prairie wildlife habitat, stream water quality, and the agricultural heritage of the Flint Hills.
- The Dakota Grassland Conservation Area, which was approved in September 2011, will conserve prairie landscapes, wildlife resources, and working lands in the prairie pothole region, an area that supports more than half of the Nation's migratory waterfowl.
- The successful community based conservation initiatives taking place in the Crown of the Continent, a vast and intact landscape that includes portions of northwestern Montana as well as British Columbia and Alberta.

throughout the United States, as well as in Canada and Mexico, for the conservation of waterfowl and other wetland-associated migratory birds. For the past twenty years, NAWCA funds have been invested in the continent's most vital wetland ecosystems, which are key for sustaining species and are important to hunters and anglers. Projects are funded based on the significance of the wetland ecosystems and wildlife habitat to be conserved, migratory bird species benefitted, partner diversity and non-Federal contributions leveraged, as well as the long-term value of the conservation work proposed. The FWS budget includes \$39.4 million for these grants in 2013. This request, along with non-Federal partner matches, will enable the NAWCA program to select and fund wetland protection, restoration, and enhancement projects that will ultimately conserve approximately 961,426 acres of wetland and wetland associated habitats, including the estimated 85,840 acres attributed to the proposed budget increase of \$3.9 million.



State and Tribal Wildlife Grants – This grant program assists States, the District of Columbia, Commonwealths, Territories, and Tribes, in protecting fish and wildlife populations along with their habitat, including nongame species. All funded activities must link with species, actions, or strategies included in each State's Wildlife Action Plan. These plans collectively form a nationwide strategy to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered, and are unique from many prior conservation plans because of broad participation and an open planning process. By working with stakeholders and other members of the community, State fish and wildlife agencies translate pressing conservation needs into practical actions and on-the-ground results. Through this program, FWS has been able to assist States to improve efforts to conserve native flora and fauna and encourage multi-State projects, like projects

funded in 2011 that enhanced native prairies, wetlands, and woodlands on public and private lands across the boundaries of Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Washington, and Wyoming. These projects benefit various species of greatest conservation need such as the Bell's vireo, greater prairie chicken, sage grouse, swift fox, and the northern red belly dace.

The budget includes \$61.3 million for grants to help conserve and recover imperiled fish and wildlife. To target a sizable share of the funds toward national conservation objectives, the 2013 request includes \$44.1 million to be awarded based on a statutory formula, \$13.0 million to be awarded competitively to States, and \$4.3 million to be awarded competitively to Tribes. The work conducted with competitive grant funding focuses on projects with the most significant conservation benefits such as:

- State fish and wildlife agencies' ability to work collaboratively with the LCC.
- Baseline surveys on species, such as sea turtles, and assessments impacted by climate change and other environmental stressors across State boundaries.
- State responsiveness to emerging species population declines such as white-nose syndrome in cave-dwelling bats caused by emerging threats.
- Protection of species' habitat across boundaries or Species of Greatest Conservation Need habitat areas, thereby increasing the ability for multiple States to mutually protect habitats through cooperative projects between State fish and wildlife agencies that support viable populations at the broader ecological scale.
- Increased national capability and strategic decisionmaking that gathers State fish and wildlife agencies' survey and project data, technical expertise, and best management practices into a cohesive approach to address common resource management issues.

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation – These grants support projects, which benefit neotropical migratory birds that breed in the U.S. and Canada and winter in Latin America. The more than 340 species of neotropical migratory birds include plovers, terns, hawks, cranes, warblers, and sparrows. The populations of many of these birds are in decline, and some are currently protected as threatened or

endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The 2013 FWS request includes \$3.8 million for Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation grants. This level of funding will support approximately 30 projects with benefits to multiple States.



Rivers and Trails—The NPS budget request includes \$10.0 million for the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program to help communities increase and improve recreational opportunities. This is consistent with the 2012 funding. 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 through 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 program will also play a key role in the Administration’s Urban Waters Federal Partnership to revitalize seven key urban waters and the communities that surround them. As part of this partnership, the RTCA is working with the Harlem River Working Group, as well as New York City and State agencies, to develop a waterfront greenway along the Bronx side of the Harlem River. These efforts will provide much needed open space and recreational opportunities along the Harlem River.

Historic Preservation and Battlefield Protection 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 other factors threaten the sustainability of heritage resources, locally led partnership initiatives can guide efforts to preserve these unique places. Working with State and local partners, NPS plays a vital role in sustaining local efforts to preserve the Nation’s cultural history through a variety of programs that address historic preservation needs nationwide. The 2013 budget request includes \$57.3 million for two NPS historic preservation grant programs, level with 2012. Of this amount, \$55.9 million is for NPS Historic Preservation Fund grants-in-aid to States and Territories, and Tribes, which is equal to the 2012 funding level. This includes \$46.9 million for grants-in-aid to States and Territories and \$9.0 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.

The NPS American Battlefield Protection program grants are funded at \$1.4 million, equal with the 2012 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. These grants support efforts in site identification and documentation, planning, interpretation, and educational projects.



COOPERATIVE LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION

Through our Climate Science Centers and Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, Interior is partnering with others to leverage information and develop the tools and strategies needed to help make future land management decisions in the face of a changing American landscape.

*Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior
February 14, 2011*

America's landscapes and the fish, wildlife, plants, and cultural heritage they support are increasingly impacted by a variety of conservation challenges: increased development pressures and related losses of natural landscapes; habitat devastation caused by invasive species; and changes to hydrologic cycles in many basins, leading to increasingly uncertain water supplies, among others. Some of these impacts, including the loss of habitat and less reliable water resources, are amplified by sea level rise, drought, and other symptoms of a changing climate.



These conservation challenges directly impact the Nation's lands and resources, much of which is managed by Interior. These challenges are also shared by conservation partners in other Federal agencies, State and local governments, Tribes, private conservation organizations, industry, farmers, ranchers, and other resource users. The collective recognition that these challenges transcend agency and geopolitical boundaries requires that all develop and implement a new, more collaborative approach.

This approach includes as a first step – ensuring all interested parties have access to good information about the nature and scope of the conservation challenges various regions are encountering. The next step is to partner with States and other interested partners involved in land use, wildlife, and water issues to develop responses to these challenges. This requires a new way of doing business, on a landscape level, and with a shared view of goals and priorities.

Interior and its Federal, State, and tribal partners have created a national network of 22 Landscape Conservation Cooperatives and eight CSCs to support this new way of doing business.

These regional Climate Science Centers provide fundamental scientific information, tools, and techniques, which resource managers can apply to anticipate and adapt to climate and ecologically-driven changes at regional-to-local scales. The CSCs undertake research, modeling, and development of monitoring strategies and other tools to better understand the extent and impacts of climate change.

The LCCs apply landscape-scale conservation science partnerships that will support and enhance on-the-ground conservation efforts by facilitating the production and dissemination of data and tools.

Importantly, LCCs:

- Promote sharing of data and information with Federal, State, and local resource managers looking for a deeper understanding of the conservation challenges that are, or should be, priorities for their regions. The collaboration allows for the use of existing information and avoids costly and wasteful duplication.
- Create a multi-party forum for Federal agencies, States, Tribes, and local interests to share developments and discuss potential responses to conservation needs in a region and to develop coordinated conservation strategies.

Climate change has been identified as a key factor contributing to landscape change. As a result, Interior has developed a Department-wide climate change strategy. Interior's Climate Change Priority Goal provides that by the end of 2013, for 50 percent of the Nation, the Department will identify resources that are particularly vulnerable to climate change and implement coordinated adaptation response actions.

For example, USGS science is being used to assist State fisheries managers and others in addressing the potential effects of climate on declining and listed trout species in several LCC geographic areas, including the Great Northern, Great Basin, and Southern Rockies. Research supported by the National Climate Change and Wildlife Center and other USGS programs has been used to project possible climate changes, identify how drought and wildfire will affect species such as the bull trout, native redband, and endangered Lahontan cutthroat trout as the climate changes, and assist in identifying management options to respond to these changes. Results from this body of work will be used by the State of Oregon as it drafts conservation plans for redband trout and by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection in drafting water quality criteria to protect and monitor the State's coldwater fisheries.



In another example, the Central Valley of California contains some of the most important habitats for waterfowl, shorebirds, and other waterbirds in North America. Climate models indicate substantial changes in temperature and precipitation patterns in watersheds that supply water used to manage wetlands and agricultural habitats in this region. These changes could have significant impacts on availability and productivity of these habitats and greatly impact waterbird ecology. Despite these potential impacts, lack of information is preventing large-scale, multi-partner conservation programs from fully considering climate change in conservation planning. This lack of information can lead to misdirected conservation priorities, wasted resources, and reduced program effectiveness. The California LCC, in partnership with the Central Valley Joint Venture and others, is coordinating studies to identify timing and locations of critical waterfowl, shorebird, and other waterbird resources that are most at risk due to climate change in the Central Valley. The study results will be used to develop adaptive management strategies that can be used by water resource and land management agencies to conserve habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, and other waterbirds.

ON-THE-GROUND RESULTS

The quality and accessibility of our outdoor spaces have a significant impact on the economic and physical health of American communities. Actions under the America's Great Outdoors initiative are reinvigorating a national discussion about the value of conservation, resulting in smart, innovative strategies and investments that respond to the priorities of American communities.

*Nancy Sutley, Chair
Council on Environmental Quality
October 12, 2011*

For centuries the great outdoors has fueled economic activity through historic uses that were originally required for subsistence, but now are oriented to recreation, like hunting and fishing. These and other recreational pursuits and natural resource related activities employ millions of people. The Outdoor Industry Association reports that outdoor recreation in the United States – from activities such as hunting, fishing, camping, and hiking – contributes an estimated \$730 billion to the Nation's economy. The Department of the Interior's wide range of recreational, conservation, energy, land and water management programs and activities sustain a substantial portion of these economic benefits. In 2010, Interior's programs supported 2.2 million American jobs and contributed \$363.2 billion to the Nation's economic activity.

In 2010, the most recent year that economic impact data is available, 439 million recreational visits to

BLM, FWS, NPS and Reclamation sites supported more than 388,000 jobs nationwide and contributed \$47.9 billion in economic activity. The specific economic impact to rural communities from recreational visits was impressive, including 15,000 jobs in Utah, 14,000 in Wyoming, and 9,000 in Colorado.

Interior's lands that are managed for multiple use support a broader range of activities that have significant economic and job-related benefits. For example, energy development and mining on Interior lands annually support about 1.3 million jobs and \$246 billion in economic activity. In 2010, most of these jobs were in Louisiana, New Mexico, Texas, and Wyoming. Interior's water supply, forage and timber activities, primarily on public lands in the West, supported about 370,000 jobs and \$48 billion in economic activity.

In October, 2011, the Administration released its America's Great Outdoors 2011 Progress Report. This report highlighted the economic impact of the outdoor economy, but focused in greater detail on programmatic accomplishments and progress in aligning Federal actions across agencies. It also provided an America's Great Outdoors Implementation plan for 2012.

Accomplishments in 2011 include:

- The NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program supported 240 community based projects. These projects, some of which included multiple components or addressed multiple priorities, included 180 trail development projects, 70 river and riparian projects, and 40 projects building community capacity for water trail development.

ECONOMIC IMPACT MULTIPLIERS FOR SELECTED PROGRAMS

Program	Economic Output per Million \$	Employment per Million \$
Construction	3.01	21.3
Maintenance	2.52	20.3
Land Acquisition	2.06	13.9
LWCF State Grants	2.74	19.4
Historic Preservation Fund Grants	2.80	20.9
State and Tribal Wildlife Grants	1.97	18.0
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund Grants	1.97	18.0

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS RIVERS INITIATIVE PROTECTING AND RENEWING AMERICA'S RIVERS

The more than 3.6 million miles of rivers and streams that wind through the Nation provide America's drinking water, fuel the economy, sustain critical ecosystems, and offer endless opportunities for recreation and enjoyment. From the upper Midwest prairie potholes to the California Bay-Delta, water has shaped the Nation's social, cultural, and economic development and enabled its prosperity. Countless cities and towns are next to waterways, making these waters a clear outdoor recreation opportunity for many. Today, American life remains inextricably linked to the rivers and shores on which it was founded.

In AGO listening sessions, participants expressed their passion for the rich natural and cultural history of these waterways, and appreciation of their recreational, economic and ecological importance. To fulfill the President's vision for healthy and accessible rivers, the Secretary has developed an AGO Rivers initiative to focus Interior's efforts to restore and conserve major river systems across the Nation. The Secretary's goals include:

- Making rivers and river restoration and recreation a priority throughout the Department.
- Identifying clear near-term priorities and objectives for river restoration and recreation.
- Improving coordination and communication among Interior bureaus about river priorities.
- Encouraging new ideas, policies, and projects to restore, conserve, and increase recreational use of rivers.
- Developing lasting strategies that help meet long-term river restoration and recreation goals.



As part of this initiative, Interior and its bureaus will undertake Interior-led river restoration and recreation projects in all 50 States; develop a National Blueways System to recognize communities which rediscover, restore, and reconnect with rivers; and work with partners to develop a National Rivers Atlas and other online river restoration and recreation tools.

The 2013 budget supports this initiative by strategically focusing funding on several large scale river projects. A clear example of the spirit of this initiative is Interior's restoration of the Elwha River in Washington. The budget request for NPS construction includes \$3.5 million for this project, the largest dam removal project in American history.

Led by the NPS in coordination with Reclamation, FWS, BIA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, the Elwha River restoration will reopen more than 70 miles of pristine spawning and rearing habitat in the Elwha River and its tributaries. Salmon populations are predicted to swell from 3,000 to nearly 400,000 as all five species of Pacific salmon return to one of the Pacific Northwest's most productive salmon streams. The return of salmon to the largest watershed in Olympic National Park will return marine-derived nutrients to the watershed, restoring a vital food source for the range of life that inhabits it. For the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, this project will bring cultural, spiritual, and economic healing as salmon return after a century's absence and flooded sacred sites are restored.

- Interior and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, designated 41 local and regional trails, stretching across 17 States, as National Recreation Trails. These trails added nearly 650 miles to the National Trails System, and will help people to reconnect with the history and natural beauty across America while providing additional recreational resources to local communities.
- The FWS added the Dakota Grassland Conservation Area to the national wildlife refuge system. The FWS is working with private landowners in North and South Dakota to sustain the area's ranching heritage and accelerate the conservation of native prairie—both wetland and grassland habitats—within the prairie pothole region in the eastern parts of those States. The refuge was officially established with the

purchase of a conservation easement in September 2011. The project could ultimately protect up to 1.7 million acres of critical grassland habitat and 240,000 acres of wetland habitat through conservation easements bought from willing sellers. Key partners include the South Dakota Grassland Trust, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, and Partners for Conservation. Ducks Unlimited has already pledged \$50 million for this project.

The national conversation about America's Great Outdoors began in April 2010 and through 51 listening sessions held during 2010, the Department received input used as the basis to identify major goals and action items for public lands conservation. During the spring and summer of 2011, Secretary Salazar continued the conversation with Americans outside Washington, this time seeking recommenda-

THE AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS FIFTY-STATE REPORT
MIDDLE RIO GRANDE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Project Description and Need – Price's Dairy is five miles south of downtown Albuquerque, New Mexico on North America's second largest river, the Rio Grande. Comprised of 570 acres, this former dairy is one of the largest remaining farms in the Middle Rio Grande Valley and the largest agricultural property in the Albuquerque metro region. The property's size and location has made it the target of multiple development initiatives as well as efforts by various Federal, State, and local agencies to preserve and protect it. The Secretary of the Interior recently announced establishment of a new national wildlife refuge in this location.

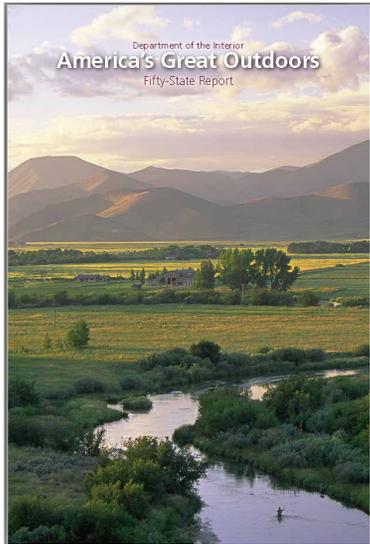
This urban refuge will provide greater access for wildlife-dependent public recreation for Albuquerque residents and contribute to objectives for protection and restoration of river corridor habitats and the historic cottonwood-willow community, common referred by its Spanish name, bosque. The bosque supports a diverse array of wildlife including endangered species, such as the Rio Grande silvery minnow and the Southwestern willow flycatcher, as well as neo-tropical migratory birds, raptors, and pollinators.

Protecting the property as a refuge will greatly bolster environmental education for students and provide a gateway to the larger regional refuge system. Also, because of its significant water rights, protecting this property will add to the health and vitality of the adjacent Rio Grande, which struggles not only to support the people who depend on it for water but the wildlife living in and around it. This is one of the last undeveloped parcels along the Rio Grande. The river corridor also provides an opportunity for hiking and biking along the State-planned Rio Grande Trail. This project could also serve as a catalyst for a broader restoration effort on the Middle Fork of the Rio Grande River.

Potential Action – Protect the Middle Rio Grande National Wildlife Refuge.

Partners – Reclamation, FWS, State of New Mexico, City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, nonprofit organizations, and private sector interests

tions from each State about future opportunities that support the America's Great Outdoors initiative. The Secretary asked Governors and stakeholders in all 50 States to identify specific projects in which the Federal government could partner with States to advance the AGO goals. The *America's Great Outdoors Fifty-State Report* summarizes two project ideas in each State and one in Washington, D.C. The Department of the Interior and other Federal agencies are partnering with State and local governments and other stakeholders to complete these



projects and demonstrate a shared conservation and recreation agenda. The Interior Department is dedicating its resources and partnering with States and communities to leverage grants, private funding, and other resources to help ensure the success of these projects. As a portfolio of shared priorities, and in partnership with States and communities across the Nation, these 101 projects will:

- Conserve tens of thousands of acres of working lands and wildlife habitat in large landscapes through voluntary conservation agreements.
- Improve access to the great outdoors by protecting, constructing or improving over 100 miles of trail and trail connectors.
- Enhance parks and increase access to rivers in and around urban areas.
- Engage thousands of youth through education, volunteerism, and employment to help them build a lifelong passion for the outdoors.

LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVES AT WORK

It's not easy being an arctic fish – many streams and lakes freeze to the bottom in winter, so reaching a safe overwintering site in the fall is a matter of life or death. But scientists have noticed some arctic streams becoming victims of late summer droughts that trap fish in isolated pools, blocking them from returning to their traditional overwintering sites. With global climate models forecasting longer, warmer arctic summers, fisheries biologists are concerned that these “drying events” may become more common in the future. In cooperation with fisheries biologists from FWS and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, the Arctic LCC is funding work that identifies the weather conditions associated with drying events, and uses climate models to project whether migration conditions are deteriorating. The degree to which waterways are vulnerable to climate change will have a big impact on fish populations and their availability for the arctic people who rely upon these fish.



RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Investments in research and development promote economic growth and innovation, ensure American competitiveness in a global market, and are critical to achieving the mission of the Department of the Interior. For example, investments in research and development will improve U.S. strategic mineral supplies, water use and availability, and natural hazard preparedness. The 2013 budget request increases total Interior R&D funding by \$60.0 million for BLM, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, USGS, and FWS. As a result of long term investments in R&D, Interior is able to address critical societal challenges in the following areas:

- The increased use of hydraulic fracturing for developing energy resources has raised questions about induced seismicity and linkages to natural hazards as well as impacts on water quality and quantity and habitat health. In 2013, the USGS, in coordination with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy, proposes new research to characterize gas resources and address the pressing science issues related to hydraulic fracturing. This new research would build on existing R&D efforts.
- The Bureau of Reclamation is researching whether the use of *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, a common bacterium found in soil and water, can be used to control zebra and quagga mussels – two invasive species that have significant impacts on Reclamation and other water infrastructure. Unlike mechanical treatments, these treatments should not require facilities to shut down ongoing operations and can be applied to pipes with small diameters. Moreover, the bacterium has been found to work faster and with less environmentally hazardous effects or byproducts than traditional biocide treatments.
- The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is working with the University of Texas and a team of arctic researchers on a five year comprehensive study of the Hanna Shoal ecosystem in the Chukchi Sea off Alaska’s northwest coast. Past studies have identified this area as an important biological ecosystem which supports a high concentration of marine life. Valuable data on physical and biological processes in the area obtained from this research effort will be combined with the results of previously conducted studies. The resulting information will be used by industry, as well as by BOEM in decisions regarding energy development in this region, and will be included in future National Environmental Policy Act analyses.
- In 2011, the USGS used cutting edge technology to complete the genome sequencing of the fungus that causes the skin infection that is a hallmark of the White-nose Syndrome that is decimating bat populations. This sequencing will support further research that is necessary to develop management strategies to mitigate the spread of the syndrome among bats. Recognizing that the impact of WNS is not limited to wildlife health, the USGS and university partners produced a study which determined that bats contribute \$3.7 billion to the agricultural economy by eating pests harmful to agricultural and forest commodities.

