

Department of Interior 40 Duplicative Programs

In FY 2010, the Department of Interior received \$12.1 billion in discretionary funding, a 7.8 percent increase over last year's non-emergency discretionary level.

Historic Preservation

The Department of the Interior oversees multiple, overlapping historic preservation programs. Additionally, every federal agency is required to maintain a historic preservation program and must appoint a historic preservation officer. Historic preservation programs substantially overlap throughout the Department of the Interior, and across several other federal agencies. Examples include:

- The **Heritage Preservation Services** (Interior/National Parks Service office oversees **nine preservation programs**, including the **Federal Agency Preservation Assistance Program, the Historic Preservation Planning Program, and Technical Preservation Services for Historic Buildings**.¹ (Estimated \$55 million in FY 2010)
- **Save America's Treasures Grant Program** (Interior) - This program awards grants to federal, state, local, and non-profit agencies to preserve historically significant properties. (FY 2010- \$25 million, including \$10 million in earmarks)
- **Advisory Council on Historic Preservation** – the Council “is an independent federal agency that promotes the preservation, enhancement, and productive use of our nation's historic resources, and advises the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy”² (FY 2010- \$5.9 million).
- **Preserve America** (Interior/ Advisory Council on Historic Preservation)- This “provides planning funding to designated Preserve America Communities to support preservation efforts through heritage tourism, education, and historic preservation planning.”³ **(FY 2010- \$4.6 million)**

Invasive Species Research, Monitoring and Eradication

Agencies of the Department of the Interior operate dozens of invasive species programs. The **US Fish and Wildlife Service administers eight programs**⁴ with an invasive species component.

Other agencies of the Department with invasive species programs include:

- Bureau of Land Management;

¹ <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/index.htm>

² <http://www.achp.gov/aboutachp.html>

³ <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/hpg/preserveamerica/>

⁴ <http://www.fws.gov/INVASIVES/partnerships.html>

- the Bureau of Indian Affairs;
- Bureau of Reclamation;
- US Geological Survey;
- National Park Service; and
- the National Park Service.

Additionally, outside of the Department of Interior, the following other Agencies administer invasive species programs:

- the US Department of Agriculture;
- the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;
- the Department of Defense;
- the Environmental Protection Agency;
- the National Science Foundation; and
- the Smithsonian Institution.

While USDA acts as the major invasive species research arm through its Agricultural Research Service, the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, several federal agencies have their own research programs.

Finally, at least **four separate federal councils** have been created to coordinate federal invasive species efforts:

- National Invasive Species Council;
- USDA's National Invasive Species Information Center;
- Fish and Wildlife's Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds; and
- the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force.

While overlapping programs make it difficult to pinpoint total federal spending on invasive species activities, agency documents obtained by the Congressional Research Service reveal at least **\$1.4 billion** in spending⁵, up from \$770 million in 2002.⁶ FY 2010 appropriations bills included at least 12 invasive species earmarks.

Climate Change Research Programs

Various agencies at the Interior Department have recently established or expanded at **least four separate, overlapping programs** intended to deal with the impacts of climate change on wildlife. However, in total, across agencies \$23.5 billion was expended last year on a variety of climate change programs. Just for climate change research, Congress appropriated \$2.163 billion last year. This does not include \$12.6 billion for energy efficiency/climate change technology research.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is seeking to claim the mantle as the federal agency in charge of this type of climate research and is proposing the creation of an

⁵ Congressional Research Service request, documents include cross-cutting tables from the Departments of Agriculture, Interior, and Commerce, January 15, 2010.

⁶ http://www.invasivespecies.gov/global/org_collab_budget/org_collab_budget_documents/NISC%20FY2007%20Crosscut%20Budget%20Summary.pdf

entire sub-agency to focus on climate change impacts. NOAA's "Climate Service" agency would not replace NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS), but be a whole new entity to provide relevant and timely information about climate change to government officials and the public. NOAA is requesting several hundreds of millions of dollars in annual appropriations. There will also be six regional climate service directors.⁷

While it is already dubious to create a new agency, instead of conducting this research within NWS, if NOAA wants to be the agency for climate change research and information dissemination, it should at least make sure that it is consolidating ongoing initiatives in other federal agencies. In fact, NOAA's parent agency, the Department of Commerce (DOC) issued a press release claiming the creation of this agency was necessary because, "Individuals and decision-makers across widely diverse sectors - from agriculture to energy to transportation - are increasingly asking [NOAA] for information about climate change in order to make the best choices for their families, communities and businesses... The climate research, observations, modeling, predictions and assessments generated by NOAA's top scientists ... will continue to provide the scientific foundation for extensive on-the-ground climate services that respond to millions of requests annually for data and other critical information. The NOAA Climate Service will serve as a single point-of-contact to respond to the increasing requests for climate information critical to private and public sector planning and operations."⁸ (emphasis added)

NOAA, and Americans, may be interested to know, however, that NOAA is one of thirteen departments and agencies conducting this type of climate change research. **In fact, NOAA research funding is dwarfed by NASA research funding and similar to DOE and NSF research funding levels.** This past year:

- \$367 million was appropriated for NOAA for climate research, including research important to climate modeling and atmospheric science research.
 - NOAA also spent \$3,275.07 to send its department head, Dr. Jane Lubchenco, to the World Climate Conference 3 (WCC3) in Geneva, Switzerland from September 1-5, 2009. As an outcome of the conference, a "Global Framework for Climate Services" was established to encourage the production and use of "science-based climate prediction and services."⁹ This money would have been better spent on improving weather reporting services, not endorsing climate prediction services or models that cannot accurately predict past, present, and future climates.¹⁰
- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** spent \$1.075 billion on climate change science research last year. This funding includes research "to improve the ability to forecast global and regional climate change and natural disasters" – a function entirely duplicative of NOAA research. NOAA and NASA also fund satellites used to monitor the earth's climate;
- The **National Science Foundation (NSF)** spent \$287 million on climate change research last year – primarily nonbiomedical academic research;

⁷ <http://www.federaltimes.com/article/20100923/AGENCY01/9230303/1001>

⁸ <http://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2010/02/08/commerce-department-proposes-establishment-noaa-climate-service>

⁹ E-mail to Senator Coburn's Office, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Liaison, December 29, 2009

¹⁰ E-mail to Senator Coburn's Office, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Liaison, January 6, 2010

- The **Department of Energy** (DOE) received \$235 million for biological and environmental research;
- The **Department of the Interior** (DOI) is also planning on having eight regional climate science centers “to address current and future impacts of climate change on our land, water, wildlife, cultural heritage and tribal resources.” While these efforts are technically being done in cooperation with NOAA efforts, it makes no sense for DOI to continue these efforts if NOAA is going to have a full agency to do this, especially when NOAA is setting up six regional climate centers as well.¹¹ Additionally, DOI has experienced a maintenance backlog of \$13 to \$19 billion to maintain its land holdings. These programs, most in their infant stages, received at least \$61 million in FY 2010 just for research. Each has been targeted for further expansion. Specifically:
 - The *United States Geological Survey* (\$61 million) has established the **National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center** (NCCWSC) to better “inform adaptation or management of fish and wildlife in the face of climate change.”¹² The NCCWSC includes a national office, regional hubs, and intra- and extra-mural research. The NCCWSC should oversee and coordinate research on the potential effects of climate change on wildlife, fish, and flora including both terrestrial and aquatic habitats.¹³ The new Center will now be charged with establishing “Regional Climate Change Response Centers” throughout the country.¹⁴
 - The **United States Fish and Wildlife Service** (FWS) received \$26 million in funding by Congress for the development of its own climate change impact and adaptation programs. This funding also included hiring 62 full time employees. In total FWS received for climate change research and management \$20 million for Landscape Conservation Cooperatives for adaptive science and planning,¹⁵ plus \$12 million for Refuge inventory and monitoring plus \$6 million for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program;¹⁶
- The **Department of Agriculture** (USDA) received \$103 million in climate change research appropriations, including \$50 million for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture;
- The **Environmental Protection Agency** (EPA) spent \$21 million on climate change research last year;
- The **US Agency for International Aid and Development** (USAID) spent \$36 million last year climate change research;
- The **Office of Science and Technology Policy** (OSTP) also received appropriations to work with NOAA, NASA, NSF, USGS, the DOE, and other federal agencies to coordinate the various climate observations, climate change adaptations, and civil and military environmental observation systems.¹⁷

¹¹ <http://www.federaltimes.com/article/20100923/AGENCY01/9230303/1001>

¹² <http://nccw.usgs.gov/>

¹³ http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_reports&docid=f:hr316.111.pdf

¹⁴ <http://nccwsc.usgs.gov/documents/SecOrder3289.pdf>

¹⁵ http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_reports&docid=f:hr316.111.pdf

¹⁶ FWS Congressional Liaison E-mail, September 24, 2010

¹⁷ http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_reports&docid=f:hr366.111.pdf

- The **Smithsonian** spent \$7 million on climate change researcher's salaries;
- The **Department of Health and Human Services'** (HHS) National Institutes of Health (NIH) spent \$4 million on climate change research;
- The **Centers of Disease and Control** (CDC) appropriates \$7.5 million on environmental health research on climate change;
- The **Department of Transportation** (DOT) spent \$1 million on climate change research; and
- Lastly, Congress also appropriated \$13 million for the **International Panel on Climate Change** (IPCC) and the United Nation's Framework Convention on Climate Change.¹⁸ The IPCC is political body of scientists that purports to issue reports on the dangers of climate change/global warming. Unfortunately, even scientists technically considered to be part of this committee has questioned the scientific accuracy of the report and demonstrated that it is primarily a political document.

Environmental Infrastructure Construction

The White House and the Corps of Engineers have both concluded **that Corps wastewater treatment projects** are duplicative and outside of the scope of the Corps' mission.

The Corps has stated they do not have the expertise to do these projects, which the Environmental Protection Agency normally funds through grants and revolving fund loan programs.

According to the President, "The Corps does not assess the economic and environmental costs and benefits of these water and wastewater treatment projects and, therefore, has no basis to determine the value of these projects to the Nation... Providing funding in the Corps of Engineers' budget for environmental infrastructure projects is not cost effective and duplicates funding for these types of projects in other Federal agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Agriculture..."¹⁹ In FY 2009, the Administration estimated there were \$180 million in projects and the stimulus also included \$206.7 million for these projects.²⁰

¹⁸ http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_reports&docid=f:hr366.111.pdf

¹⁹ <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2010/assets/trs.pdf>, page 25

²⁰ http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2009-05-07-budgetcuts_N.htm