

# BUDGET The United States Department of the Interior JUSTIFICATIONS

and Performance Information Fiscal Year 2012

### NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND RESTORATION PROGRAM

NOTICE: These budget justifications are prepared for the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittees. Approval for release of the justifications prior to their printing in the public record of the Subcommittee hearings may be obtained through the Office of Budget of the Department of the Interior.

### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Appropriation: Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Rest	oratioi
<b>Summary of Request</b>	Page
General Statement.	1
Program Performance Summary	4
Goal Performance Table.	7
Summary of Requirements Table	9
Fixed Costs and Related Changes	10
Appropriations Language	11
Summary of Program Changes	13
Program Activities	
Damage Assessments Activity	14
Assessments and Restorations Site Map	20
Restoration Support Activity	22
Program Management Activity	32
Exhibits and Schedules	37

### NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND RESTORATION PROGRAM

#### GENERAL STATEMENT

#### **FY 2012 Budget Request:**

The Restoration Program's 2012 request for discretionary appropriations is \$6,263,000, a decrease of \$199,000 below the 2010 Enacted / 2011 annualized Continued Resolution level. This level includes \$79,000 for full fixed costs, a general program reduction of \$73,000, and efficiency savings of \$205,000 under the Accountable Government Initiative for efficiencies in administrative costs, travel, information technology, and strategic sourcing.

Additionally, the request also includes an estimated \$60.0 million in permanent funds for Interior bureaus and its Federal, State, and tribal co-trustees, which result from negotiated legal settlement agreements and cooperative damage assessments with responsible parties.

#### **Executive Summary**

The mission of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program (Restoration Program) is to restore natural resources injured as a result of oil spills or hazardous substance releases into the environment. In partnership with other affected State, tribal and Federal trustee agencies, damage assessments provide the basis for determining the restoration needs that address the public's loss and use of these resources. Cooperation with its co-trustees and partners, and where possible, with the responsible parties, is an important component of meeting the Restoration Program's core mission.

As authorized by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA or Superfund), the Clean Water Act (CWA), and the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA), injuries to natural resources that the Department of the Interior manages or controls are assessed, and appropriate restoration projects are identified in contemplation of negotiated settlements or in rare cases, litigation with potentially responsible parties. Recoveries, in cash or in-kind services, from the potentially responsible parties are then used to finance or implement the restoration of the injured resources, pursuant to a publicly reviewed restoration plan.

The Office of Restoration and Damage Assessment (Program Office) manages the confluence of the technical, ecological, biological, legal, and economic disciplines and coordinates the efforts of six bureaus and three offices to accomplish this mission. The Program has a nationwide presence encompassing nearly the full span of natural and cultural resources for which the Secretary of the Interior has trust responsibility. Each bureau has its unique natural resource trusteeship and brings its expertise to bear on relevant sites. The Restoration Program is a truly integrated Departmental program, drawing upon the interdisciplinary strengths of its various bureaus and offices, while eliminating or minimizing redundant bureau-level bureaucratic and administrative operations.



The **Bureau of Indian Affairs** is responsible for the administration and management over 55 million surface acres and 57 million acres of sub-surface minerals estates held in trust by the United States for American Indians, Indian Tribes, and Alaska Natives, and provides assistance to 565 federally-recognized tribal governments to help protect water, natural resources and land rights.



The **Bureau of Land Management** administers 248 million acres of Federal land, located primarily in 12 western states, including Alaska, characterized by grasslands, forests, deserts, coastline, and arctic tundra. The BLM sustains the ecological and economic health, diversity, and productivity of these public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



Working in states west of the Mississippi River, the **Bureau of Reclamation** manages 6.6 million acres associated with projects to protect local economies and preserve natural resources and ecosystems through the management and effective use of water resources.



The **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service** conserves, protects and enhances fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats and manages over 150 million acres within 553 National Wildlife Refuges, other refuge units, and 38 wetland management districts for the continuing benefit of the American people, providing primary trusteeship for migratory birds and threatened and endangered species.



The **National Park Service** preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the 84 million acre national park system and conserves the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife of the park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of current and future generations.

In addition to the five bureaus with primary trust resource management activities, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the Office of the Secretary, and the Office of the Solicitor play key roles in making the Restoration Program a fully integrated Departmental program. The Office of the Solicitor provides legal advice, USGS provides technical scientific support, and the Office of

Policy Analysis provides economic analytical expertise to the Program at both national policy and individual case management levels. The Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance provides a link to response and remedial activities associated with oil or chemical releases.

The Department, through its bureaus, conducts every damage assessment and restoration case in partnership with co-trustees, and all restoration plans must undergo public review and be approved by affected State and tribal governments. The Restoration Program serves as a model of collaboration in its day-to-day operations and partnerships that have been developed with tribal, State, and other Federal co-trustees, as well as with non-governmental conservation organizations and industry.

Government-wide Initiatives: In response to the requirements issued through OMB Memorandum M-10-19 regarding Government-wide initiatives, the DOI Restoration Program is participating with Departmental offices and bureaus in a coordinated, agency-wide approach to the planning and implementation for each initiative. The Department is coordinating the initiative efforts through organized steering committees or implementation groups that engage each bureau and office. This enables a consistent and structured approach across the Department. Descriptions of the Department's strategies and accomplishments for each initiative are provided in the General Statement of the Department-Wide Programs justification.

Accountable Government Initiative (Administrative Cost Savings) In support of the President's commitment on fiscal discipline and spending restraint, the DOI Restoration Program is participating in an aggressive Department-wide effort to curb non-essential administrative spending. In accordance with this initiative, the Restoration Program's 2012 justification includes \$86,000 in savings in 2012 against actual 2010 expenditures. The activities where the savings will be realized include: advisory contracts; travel and transportation of people and things, including employee relocation; printing; and supplies. There will be no programmatic impact of implementing these savings initiatives, as functions will be performed in a more efficient and more effective manner. Actions to address the Accountable Government Initiative and reduce expenses build upon the management efficiency efforts in travel, relocation, and strategic sourcing proposed in 2011.

**DOI Strategic Plan:** In accordance with the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, the DOI Strategic Plan has been reviewed and updated in compliance with the three-year update requirement. The Department, in consultation with the bureaus, reviewed the organization and construct of the Strategic Plan in light of the Administration's priorities, goals, and objectives; recent innovations and efficiencies at delivering mission objectives and the goal to provide a more integrated and focused approach to track performance across a wide range of Interior programs. Although many of the outcome goals and performance measures remain consistent from the previous Strategic Plan, the organizing principles for these goals and measures reflect a new approach to meeting the Department's mission responsibilities. The DOI Strategic Plan for 2011 – 2016 is the foundational structure for the description of program performance measurement and planning for the President's 2012 Budget. Budget and program plans for 2012 are fully consistent with the goals, outcomes, and measures described in the new version of the DOI Strategic Plan.

#### **Total 2012 Budget Request**

(Dollars in Thousands)

Budget Authority	2010 Enacted	2010 Enacted/ 2011 CR	2012 Budget Request	<b>Change</b> Dollar	e from 2010 Percent
Discretionary	6,462	6,462	6,263	-199	-3.08%
Mandatory	170,714	57,000	57,000	-	0.00%
,	,	,		100	
TOTAL FTE	177,176 <i>9</i>	<b>63,462</b> <i>10</i>	<b>63,263</b>	-199 -	-0.31%

#### **Performance Summary**

All activities within the Restoration Program (damage assessment, restoration support, and program management) support resource restoration either directly or as necessary steps on the road to restoration of injured natural resources under the trusteeship of the Department of the Interior. These restoration activities contribute towards Mission Area 1 / Goal No.1 in the Department's Strategic Plan, namely to Provide Natural and Cultural Resource Protection and Experiences/Protect America's Landscapes. In conjunction with the Administration's America's Great Outdoors Initiative, the Program's restoration of injured natural resources includes activities as varied as partnerships to acquire high-value habitats; improved stewardship of Federal, State and tribal lands; and landscape-level conservation in key ecosystems.

In addition, the Program's damage assessment and restoration activities undertaken with tribal co-trustees support the Strengthening Tribal Nations Initiative by working government to government as equal partners to restore tribal natural resources. The Program also seeks opportunities wherever possible to involve young people, either in hands-on restoration activities or outdoor classroom experiences, in support of the Youth in the Great Outdoors Initiative.

As required by the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993, the Department recently published its Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2011 – 2016. This Strategic Plan is updated from the prior plan (2007 – 2012) and includes a simpler and more strategic set of goals and more finite and focused performance measures. NRDAR performance is measured and reported respectively by the bureau that is the lead agency in any given case, described in each bureau's budget justification, and consolidated with performance measures from other programs in reporting the strategic outcomes. This budget request also continues to report a summary of onthe-ground performance, focusing on acres and miles of habitat restored. Performance measures reported here are not added to the Departmental strategic reporting in order to avoid potential issues of double-counting.

#### **2012 Program Performance**

In 2012, the Program will continue to review, develop and implement guidance and regulatory reforms that directly address process improvements recommended over the past several years by field practitioners, co-trustees, and key stakeholders. The program will also continue to sponsor a series of technical workshops to gather the most up to date information needed for development of restoration policy. These improvements address four major policy areas: injury quantification, damage determination, analysis of restoration alternatives, and restoration implementation. Once implemented, the recommendations will lead to improved processes and tools to achieve long-term restoration goals that support the Department's mission and overall goal to protect the Nation's natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

In 2012, the Program will continue to focus its activities in support of trust resource restoration. Planned performance targets in 2012 include the restoration of 15,000 acres and 150 stream or shoreline miles, increases of 800 acres (+6%) and 6 stream / shoreline miles (+4%), respectively over 2011 strategic plan goals. Attainment of these goals will be accomplished by the Department and its co-trustees through the use of funds or in-kind services received in settlement of damage claims with responsible parties. A secondary, less formal performance indicator used by the Program is monitoring the amount of funds disbursed from the Restoration Fund to the bureaus and co-trustees to implement on-the-ground restoration projects. In the previous four years (2007 – 2010), the Restoration Program released over \$136 million to trustee agencies. This amount is greater than the total released in the previous fifteen years (1992 – 2006).

Restoration program performance measures and accomplishments in all three program activities (Damage Assessment, Restoration Support, and Program Management) are singularly focused on one goal, the increased restoration of acres and stream / shoreline miles. Such restoration creates or protects habitat for injured biological communities to recuperate, thrive and flourish. Programmatic performance accomplishments at the activity level are but a step leading to the implementation of restoration actions. Within the Damage Assessment activity, data is collected annually on all Departmentally-funded cases, which enables the Program to monitor the progress of cases through the assessment process to settlement, using measures such as number of cases reaching various milestones, numbers of cooperative assessments with industry, and number of cases settled. In 2012, the Program will continue to work with the USGS on a restoration science initiative to develop protocols and metrics to better measure the ecological outcomes of restoration activities.

The Restoration Program's performance goals reflect continued progress funded with monies and in-kind actions recovered in settlement from responsible parties, and not appropriated funds. Appropriated discretionary funds are used to fund damage assessments, administer the program, and provide technical support. There is roughly \$425 million in settlement funds dedicated for restoration activities currently in the Department's NRDA Restoration Fund that will allow the program to continue moving forward towards its long term restoration goals.

Restoration accomplishments in acres and stream/shoreline miles restored often fluctuate from year-to-year, the result of a complex process in which numerous trustee councils across the nation are moving forward in identifying specific opportunities for restoration consistent with

approved restoration plans, but which generally cannot be scheduled or readily anticipated on a site-specific basis. The year-to-year variability in performance shown on the following table reflects the pace of restoration, which is greatly influenced by factors outside the Department's control, such as finding cooperative landowners or willing sellers.

There are a number of efforts currently underway or anticipated in 2012 that will help the Restoration Program meet its performance goals for 2012. Overall, continued program maturity and a focus on achieving restoration will provide the impetus for case teams in getting restoration projects underway. In addition, products and services such as contracting, restoration planning, engineering support and a partnership/matching funds clearinghouse will be provided by the Restoration Support Unit, giving case teams an expanding set of tools for restoration implementation. The increasingly common use of cooperative assessments is expected to continue, thus minimizing the chance of adversarial confrontations with responsible parties, and thus allowing case teams to move more quickly to settlement and restoration. In the longer term, regulatory, policy and operational improvements arising from practitioner, co-trustee, and stakeholder recommendations will lead to better, more efficient damage assessments, which will generate quicker and more effective restorations, positioning the Restoration Program to achieve its long-term strategic plan goals.

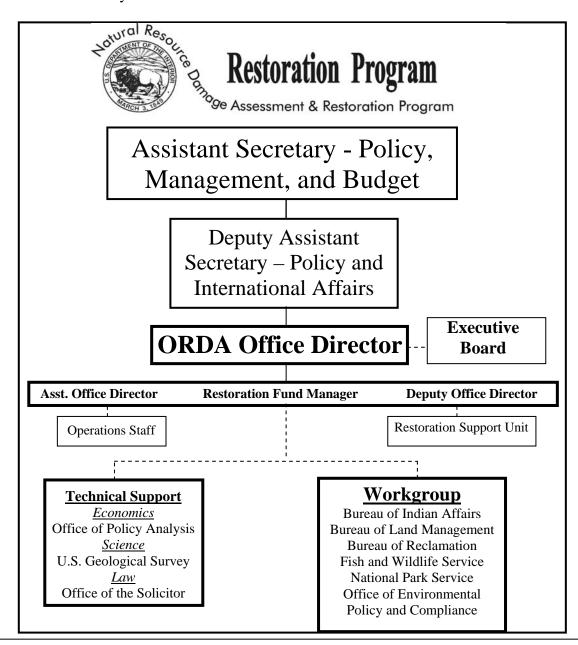
Cost information, including unit costs, in the context of performance measurement is of limited value within the Restoration Program, due to the wide variability of possible restoration solutions that might be implemented and the multi-year implementation time-frames they often entail. Every restoration effort is unique, from the resource injury being addressed, to the ecological, biological, and engineering aspects involved, and the number and roles of other involved cotrustees, partners, and responsible parties. The wide range of possible but generally not comparable restoration actions is best exemplified in the restoration success stories found in the Restoration Support section.

The bureaus will continue to collect, validate, and verify the performance data before reporting to the Program. In addition, the Program Office will continue to track internally the progress of cases from start to finish using measures such as increased numbers of restoration plans drafted, finalized, and in stages of implementation; increased numbers of restorations completed; increased numbers of cooperative assessments with industry; and increased funding leveraged from restoration partnerships.

Goal Performance Table										
Target Codes:		SP = Strategi	SP = Strategic Plan measures	Şi	PΑ	PART = PART Measure	asure			
					Ŋ	JK = Prior year	UNK = Prior year data unavailable	0		
		TBD = Targe	TBD = Targets have not yet been developed	been developed		BUR = Bureau specific measure	ecific measure			
						\ = Long-term ta	argets are inapp	ropriate to dete	NA = Long-term targets are inappropriate to determine at this time	
Type Codes:		C = Cumulative Measure	ve Measure		A = Annual Measure	easure	F = Future Measure	asure		
Mission Area 1: Provide natural and cultural resource protection and experiences/Protect America's Landscapes	ral a	nd cultura	l resource	protection	and exper	iences/Prα	tect Ameri	ica's Land	scapes	
Supporting Performance Measures	Type	2007 Actual	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Plan	2010 Actual	2011 President's Budget	2012 Plan	Change from 2011 Plan to 2012	Long-term Target 2016
Strategy#1: Improve land and water health by restoring and protecting wetlands and uplands										
Restoration: Number of acres restored or enhanced to achieve desired habitat conditions to support species conservation:	A	15,462	24,914	41,183	13,400	68,834	14,200	15,000	(%9+) 008+	30,000
Comments:		Note: Year	Note: Year to year variability is to be expected based on the variability of timing and settlement amounts	ility is to be ex	xpected based	d on the varial	bility of timing	and settleme	nt amounts	
Δ Contributing Programs:		NRDAR, FV co-trustees.	VS Environme	ntal Contamir	nants, NPS Er	vironmental (	ا BIA, B	LM, BOR, oth	NRDAR, FWS Environmental Contaminants, NPS Environmental Quality, BIA, BLM, BOR, other Federal, State, and tribal co-trustees.	e, and tribal
Strategy#1: Improve land and water health by restoring and protecting riparian, stream, and shoreline areas	S									
Restoration: Number of stream or shoreline miles restored or enhanced to achieve habitat conditions to support species conservation:	∢	171	391	186	136	377	144	150	+6 (+4%)	210
Comments:		Note: Year	Note: Year to year variability is to be expected based on the variability of timing and settlement amounts.	ility is to be ex	xpected based	d on the varial	bility of timing	and settleme	nt amounts.	
Δ Contributing Programs:		NRDAR, FV co-trustees.	VS Environme	ntal Contamir	nants, NPS Er	vironmental (	Quality, BIA, B	LM, BOR, oth	NRDAR, FWS Environmental Contaminants, NPS Environmental Quality, BIA, BLM, BOR, other Federal, State, and tribal co-trustees.	e, and tribal

Note: The actual and planned acres and miles presented in this table are included among the performance results and targets presented in the Performance Budgets of the bureaus. As such, in order to avoid double-counting, these acres and miles are not included in the Department's aggregate results calculations or performance projections.

The Office of Restoration and Damage Assessment (ORDA) administers the Restoration Program, and consists of ten direct FTE. They are the Office Director and nine staff: the Deputy Office Director for Restoration, the Assistant Office Director for Operations, the Budget Officer/Restoration Fund Manager, and a budget / program analyst located in its Washington, DC headquarters; three staff Restoration Support specialists located in Denver, Colorado; and operations staff in Oakland, California and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The following organization chart reflects the integrated management structure of the Program as a whole, with the inter-related components of six bureaus, the Office of the Solicitor, and two offices within the Office of the Secretary.



The Restoration Program reports to the Deputy Assistant Secretary – Policy and International Affairs, under the Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management, and Budget (AS-PMB). There is also a "Restoration Executive Board" representative at the assistant director level for BIA, BLM, BOR, FWS and NPS; a Deputy Associate Solicitor, and the Director of the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance. The Restoration Executive Board is responsible for overseeing policy direction and approving allocation of resources.

Summary of Requirements Table (Dollars in Thousands)

Appropriation: Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration

		J	Somp	Comparison by Activity / Subactivity	y Activ	vity / S	ubact	ivity						
	201	2010 Actual	2010	2010 Enacted/ 2011 CR Level	Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	osts & hanges -)	Administrative Cost Savings ( - )	strative avings )	Program Changes (+/-)	am ges )	20 Budget	2012 Budget Request	Inc. (+) Dec. (-) from 2011 CR	(+) (-) 11 CR
Activity	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE A	Amount	FTE A	Amount	FTE Amount	nount	FIE	FTE Amount	FTE Amount	nount
APPROPRIATED FUNDS														
Damage Assessments	0	4,022	0	4,022	0	+12	0	-143	0	-148	0	3,743	0	-279
Restoration Support	က	615	ო	615	0	+7	0	φ	0	0	ო	614	0	7
Program Management	9	1,825	7	1,825	0	+60	0	-54	0	+75	7	1,906	0	<del>+</del> 81
Total, Appropriation	6	6,462	10	6,462	0	62+	0	-205	0	-73	10	6,263	0	-199
PERMANENT FUNDS (RECEIPTS)	_													
Damage Assessments Restoration		38,970		8,500		0		0		0		8,500	0	0
[Prince William Sound Restoration]		7,204		4,000		0		0		0		4,000	0	0
[Other Restoration]		221,694		47,000		0		0		0		47,000	0	0
Program Management		2,846		200		0		0		0		200	0	0
Subtotal, Gross Receipts	0	270,714	0	60,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60,000	0	0
Transfers Out		-3,253		-3,000		0		0		0		-3,000		0
Total, Net Receipts		267,461		57,000		0		0		0		57,000	0	0

#### Justification of Fixed Costs and Related Changes: Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program (dollars in thousands)

	2010 Budget	2010 Enacted/ 2011 CR	2012 Fixed Costs Change
Additional Operational Costs from 2011 and 2012 January Pay Raises			
1. 2010 Pay Raise, 3 Quarters in 2010 Budget (2.0%)	+49	N/A	N/A
2. 2009 Pay Raise, 1 Quarter (3.9%)	+32	N/A	N/A
3. 2010 Pay Raise, 1 Quarter (2.0%)  Amount of Pay Raise Absorbed	N/A	N/A [+20]	+20
4. 2011 Pay Raise, 3 Quarters in 2011 Budget (0%)	N/A	[0]	0
5. 2011 Pay Raise, 1 Quarter (0%)	N/A	[0]	0
6. 2012 Pay Raise (0%)	N/A	N/A	0
7. Non-Foreign Area COLA Adjustment to Locality Pay	0	0	0

These adjustments are for an additional amount needed to fund estimated pay raises for Federal employees.

Lines 1 and 2, 2010 pay raise estimates provided as a point of reference.

Line 3 is the amount needed in 2012 to fund the enacted 2.0% January 2010 pay raise from October through December

Lines 4 and 5, 2011 pay raise is shown as "0" to reflect the first year of the Administration-directed 2-year pay freeze at the 2010 level.

Line 6 is shown as "0" to reflect the second year of the Administration	on-directed 2-year pag	y freeze at the 20	10 level.
	2010 Budget	2010 Enacted/ 2011 CR	2012 Fixed Costs Change
Other Fixed Cost Changes			
One Less Pay Day	N/A	N/A	-16
This adjustment reflects the decreased costs resulting from the fact	that there is one less	s pay day in 2012	than in 2011.
Employer Share of Federal Health Benefit Plans  Amount of health benefits absorbed	181	N/A [+16]	+31
This adjustment is for changes in the Federal government's share of employees. For 2012, the increase is 6.8%.	the cost of health ins	urance coverage	for Federal
GSA Rental Payments  Amount of rental payments absorbed	121	N/A [+14]	+40
The adjustment is for changes in the costs payable to General Service changes in rates for office and non-office space as estimated by GS/occupied space. These costs include building security; in the case of mandatory office relocations, i.e. relocations in cases where due to eather currently occupied space, are also included.	A, as well as the rent of GSA space, therse	al costs of other are paid to DHS.	currently Costs of
Departmental Working Capital Fund  Amount of WCF costs absorbed	100	N/A [0]	+4
The change reflects expected changes in the charges for centrally bi the Working Capital Fund. These charges are displayed in the Budg	•		0

### **Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program**

#### **Appropriations Language:**

To conduct natural resource damage assessment and restoration activities by the Department of the Interior necessary to carry out the provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.), Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.), and Public Law 101-337, as amended (16 U.S.C. 19jj et seq.), \$6,263,000, to remain available until expended.

Note: A full-year 2011 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the budget was prepared; therefore, this account is operating under a continuing resolution (P.L. 111-242, as amended). The amounts included for 2011 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

#### **<u>Authorizing Statutes:</u>**

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended, (42 U.S.C 9601 et seq.). Section 106 of the Act authorizes the President to clean up hazardous substance sites directly, or obtain cleanup by a responsible party through enforcement actions. Trustees for natural resources may assess and recover damages for injury to natural resources from releases of hazardous substances and use the damages for restoration, replacement or acquisition of equivalent natural resources. Provides permanent authorization to appropriate receipts from responsible parties.

Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act), as amended, (33 U.S.C. 1251-1387). Authorizes trustees for natural resources to assess and recover damages for injuries to natural resources resulting from the discharge of oil into or upon the navigable waters of the United States, adjoining shorelines, the waters of the contiguous zone, or in connection with activities under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act or the Deepwater Port Act of 1974, or which may affect natural resources belonging to, appertaining to, or under the exclusive management authority of the United States.

Oil Pollution Act of 1990, (33 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) Amends the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and authorizes trustee(s) of natural resources to present a claim for and to recover damages for injuries to natural resources from each responsible party for a vessel or facility from which oil is discharged, or which poses a substantial threat of discharge of oil, into or upon the navigable waters or adjoining shorelines or the exclusive zone.

Public Law 101-337, (16 U.S.C. 19jj). Provides that response costs and damages recovered under it or amounts recovered under any statute as a result of damage to any Federal resource within a unit of the National Park System shall be retained and used for response costs, damage assessments, restoration, and replacements. Liability for damages under this Act is in addition to any other liability that may arise under other statutes.

Interior and Related Agencies Appropriation Act, 1992 (P.L. 102-154). Permanently authorized receipts for damage assessment and restoration activities to be available without further appropriation until expended.

Dire Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Fiscal Year 1992 (P.L. 102-229). Provides that the Fund's receipts are authorized to be invested and available until expended. Also provides that amounts received by United States in settlement of U.S. v Exxon Corp. et al. in FY 1992 and thereafter be deposited into the Fund.

Interior and Related Agencies Appropriation Act, 1998 (P.L. 104-134). Provides authority to make transfers of settlement funds to other federal trustees and payments to non-federal trustees.

#### **SUMMARY OF 2012 PROGRAM CHANGES**

Program Changes:	(\$000)	FTE
ACTIVITY:		
Damage Assessments -		
Internal Transfer	-75	0
General Program Reduction	-73	0
Program Management		
Internal Transfer	+75	0
TOTAL, Program Changes	-73	0

#### JUSTIFICATION OF 2012 PROGRAM CHANGES

The 2012 budget request for the Department's Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program is a net program change of -\$73,000 and 0 direct FTE from the 2010 Enacted / 2011 annualized Continuing Resolution level.

**Program Reduction** (-\$73,000 / 0 direct FTE) – The 2012 budget request includes a general program reduction of \$73,000 to the Damage Assessment activity.

**Internal Transfer** (-\$75,000) / 0 direct FTE) — The 2012 budget request includes a internal program transfer of \$75,000, moving funds from the Damage Assessment activity to the Program Management activity.

The Restoration Program would seek to offset the proposed reduction and internal transfer decrease to damage assessments with recovered assessment funds from settled cases. Such recoveries are not guaranteed, and any such offsets would reduce the total amount of funds available (combined appropriated and recovered funds) provided annually to case teams. This may cause some delay in assessments, or the Restoration Program may have to forgo funding new project starts.

**Internal Transfer** (+\$75,000) / 0 direct FTE) – As originally proposed in 2011, the 2012 budget request includes an internal program transfer of \$75,000, moving funds into the Program Management activity, from the Damage Assessment activity. This transfer will fund an additional FTE, which will enable the Program Office to better manage the growing budget and financial stewardship requirements, made necessary as the result of increased volume and complexity of financial and budgetary transactions in its day-to-day operations. The Restoration Program Office expects to hire this new staffer in the spring of 2011.

As the Restoration Program's performance metrics are focused on acres and stream/shoreline miles restored, the effect of the proposed program reductions of \$148,000 to the Damage Assessment activity will not have a discernable impact on program performance in the short term. Program performance in a given year is the result of multiple years of past effort in conducting damage assessments, settling claims, and planning for restoration implementation. Future restoration accomplishments depend on the Program's ability to continue to conduct assessment and restoration activities and to usher cases towards settlement. Accordingly, the proposed \$148,000 reduction to the Damage Assessment activity in 2012 will likely result in diminished program performance at some point in the future.

#### **ACTIVITY: DAMAGE ASSESSMENT**

				201	12		
			Fixed Costs	Admin			Change
Natural Resource		2010	& Related	Cost	Program	2012	from
Damage Assessment	2010	Enacted/	Changes	Savings	Changes	Budget	2010
	Enacted	2011 CR	(+/-)	(-)	(+/-)	Request	(+/-)
Activity: Damage Assessments							
\$000	4,022	4,022	+12	-143	-148	3,743	-279
FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

#### **Activity Overview:**

Damage assessment activities are the critical first step taken on the path to achieving restoration of natural resources injured through the release of oil or hazardous substances. The nature and magnitude of injury must first be identified, investigated, and thoroughly understood if the subsequent restoration is to be effective. The resulting physical and scientific evidence of natural resource injury then forms the basis for the Department's claim for appropriate compensation (or in-kind services) via restoration settlements that allow the Restoration Program to restore those injured trust resources. Damage assessment activities support the Department's performance outcome goals of protecting the Nation's natural and cultural resources. Information regarding the nature and magnitude of the injury, and the means by which they are determined, also help establish the goals of the restoration plans and influence the determination of when those goals have been successfully reached.

Damage assessment cases are conducted by one or more of the five resource management bureaus within the Department: (Fish and Wildlife Service; Bureau of Land Management;

National Park Service; Bureau of Indian Affairs; and Bureau of Reclamation). Economic analytical support is provided by the Office of Policy Analysis, scientific / technical analysis and support from the U.S. Geological Survey, and legal counsel from the Office of the Solicitor. In nearly all cases, assessment activities are carried out in partnership with other affected Federal, State, and/or tribal co-trustees. These partnerships have proven advantageous for all involved, as trustee cooperation and consultation facilitates addressing overlapping areas of trustee concern, and consolidates those concerns into a single case. Trustees can also share data, achieve economies of scale, avoid duplicative efforts and minimize administrative burdens. Responsible parties also benefit, as they are able to address trustee concerns in a single, unified case.

The Restoration Program continues to make progress in conducting many of its damage assessment cases on a cooperative basis with responsible parties. As a matter of practice, responsible parties are invited to participate in the development of assessment and restoration plans. The Department has been involved in over forty cooperative assessments across the country, where the responsible parties have elected to participate in the damage assessment process, and provide input into the selection of various injury studies and contribute funds for or reimburse Interior assessment activities. In 2010, over \$29.4 million in advanced and/or reimbursed cooperative funding was received from cooperating responsible parties for the Department's assessment activities at thirteen sites, including \$22.9 million from BP for the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

Selection of damage assessment projects is accomplished on an annual basis through an extensive internal proposal and screening process that assures that only the highest priority cases are funded. Priorities for selecting initial projects are based upon a case's likelihood of success in achieving restoration, either through negotiated restoration settlements or through successful litigation where necessary. Cases must demonstrate sufficient technical, legal, and administrative merit focused on the purpose of achieving restoration.

The Restoration Program's project selection process is designed to:

- Be inclusive of all natural resources under Interior trusteeship and trustee roles;
- Provide a process that encourages thorough planning and ultimately, enhanced opportunities for restoration success;
- Provide a process that evaluates both the objective and subjective aspects of individual cases; and
- Fund cases that have demonstrated sufficient levels of technical and legal merit, trustee organization, and case readiness.

Interior bureaus are also required to coordinate their efforts into a single project proposal, thus promoting inter-Departmental efficiencies and eliminating duplication of effort. Bureau and Department office capabilities are used to augment and complement each other, as opposed to building redundant program capabilities in each bureau.

Once projects are funded, the Restoration Program makes use of project performance information to inform future funding decisions. In its 2011 project funding deliberations, the Restoration Program used performance data collected from ongoing cases that document the attainment of specific chronological milestones (trustee MOU, assessment plan development, injury determination and quantification, claim for damages, etc.) in the multi-year process

toward settlement. Funding decisions were weighted towards those cases that continue to show progress along the damage assessment continuum towards settlement and eventual restoration. Cases that stall or fail to progress are considered a lesser priority, but are given direction to make course corrections at a stable or reduced funding level. Course corrections must be made before funding is made available for addressing subsequent milestones. For example, a case team was directed to finalize necessary procedural products such as a publicly-announced assessment plan before beginning its scientific studies. Such performance information enables the Restoration Program to better manage its workload by tracking the status of damage assessments and the opportunities for new starts.

In addition to project milestone reporting, financial obligation data is monitored at the aggregate (Departmental), bureau, and project levels across all involved bureaus. This obligation data and carryover balances are factors considered in the annual funding decision process. Further, unobligated balances on all damage assessment projects are closely monitored from inception through settlement, at which time all unused or unneeded funds are pulled back and re-allocated to other high-priority damage assessment projects. In some instances and under certain circumstances, case teams have been directed to or have voluntarily returned project funds from ongoing projects so that they can be re-allocated to other projects and needs.

The program requires its case teams to document their respective assessment costs and attempts to recover those costs from the potentially responsible parties when negotiating settlement agreements. Over the past three fiscal years (2008 – 2010), the Program has utilized an average of \$1.9 million annually in recovered funds in addition to its annual appropriation to initiate new cases and to conduct ongoing CERCLA assessment needs. The Program also authorized \$5.0 million in 2010 from the Fund to ensure timely flow of funds for time-critical Deepwater Horizon damage assessment activities.

The primary program performance measures of acres and miles of habitat restored do not directly measure progress in the Damage Assessment activity. Instead, the Program must rely on workload measures, such as the number of assessment cases that have been settled and the amount of funds recovered in those settlements as a performance indicator within the activity. These program output indicators reveal the following accomplishments: Through December 2010, the DOI Restoration Fund has recovered nearly \$1.15 billion in gross settlement receipts and earned interest since its creation in 1992 (all amounts inclusive of Exxon Valdez oil spill funds). Deposits and interest for 2010 alone totaled over \$270.7 million, including \$194 million related to the American Smelting and Refining Company (ASARCO) bankruptcy settlement.

The ongoing assessment activities of the bureaus comport very closely with the Department's Strategic Plan Goal #1 to Protect America's Landscapes. Thirty of the fifty-five ongoing cases funded by the Department directly affect natural resources on lands under the stewardship of the Department. Seven cases directly affects lands managed by FWS or NPS; an additional seven cases affects lands controlled ort managed by BLM; one case involves a BOR reservoir; and fifteen cases have some involvement with tribal natural and/or cultural resources. Geographically, Program activities address high priority ecosystems: twelve cases fall within the Great Lakes ecosystem; two cases fall within the Gulf Coast ecosystem, and two cases and one active spill fall within the California Bay-Delta area ecosystem.

#### **DEEPWATER HORIZON** Incident

In its capacity as a Federal steward for land, endangered species, and other trust resources, the Department has been closely involved in responding to the oil spill that resulted from the explosion of the drilling rig *Deepwater Horizon* in April 2010. This incident in the northern Gulf of Mexico presented the Department and its co-Trustees with the most challenging oil spill response and damage assessment incident on record. From the time of the explosion on April 20, until the oil well was capped on July 15 and subsequently killed by relief wells on September 19, approximately 5 million barrels of oil leaked into the Gulf of Mexico – the largest marine oil spill in U.S. history.

Approximately 1,000 miles of shoreline were impacted, including 275 miles of Interior lands. Not only did this impact public land use, but it also had dramatic effects on seabirds, sea turtles, migratory birds, threatened and endangered species, and other trust resources that rely on this important Gulf Coast habitat.

The Department of the Interior is working with the Department of Commerce (through NOAA), the States of Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama, and Texas, and the Department of Defense to develop a comprehensive natural resource damage assessment and restoration (NRDAR) plan. This plan would identify the injury to natural resources from the spill and crafting a restoration plan that restores the region's natural resources to their pre-spill condition. Determining the extent and magnitude of injury requires a rigorous scientific process that can take several years to complete. The Department is committed to holding the responsible parties accountable for restoration of the natural resources in the affected areas of the Gulf.



Oiled pelicans at Mangrove Island, LA (FWS photo)

The Department's natural resource damage assessment and restoration activities began immediately following the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon, in close coordination with response and clean-up activities. One aspect of the early coordination was to ensure that the response activities were carried out in a manner that would minimize further impacts to sensitive habitats already injured by the oil spill. Departmental bureaus and offices (FWS, NPS, BLM, BIA, USGS, Office of the Solicitor, and Office of the Secretary) joined with the other Federal and State Trustees, forming a Trustee Steering Committee to facilitate cooperation and coordination with each other as well as communication with the Responsible Parties. The farreaching scope of potential injury from this massive spill led the Trustees to establish fourteen technical working groups based on broad resource categories (birds, shoreline, fish, human use of impacted natural resources, cultural sites, etc.). Staff from throughout the Department have brought their technical expertise to bear on these working groups to ensure that injury to trust resources managed by the Department will be identified and quantified, and that those resources will be restored to their pre-spill condition. Each working group has also reached beyond the Trustee agency staff to engage national experts in designing studies and in implementation of pre-assessment and assessment studies. Some of those studies will address potential long-term impacts from the oil spill that are unknown at this time and may not manifest themselves for While these studies are being planned and implemented, the Trustees have begun implementing emergency restoration projects designed to minimize the impacts of the spill on natural resources (e.g. moving sea turtle nests and hatchlings out of the spill area) and are scoping and planning further restoration projects to return the Gulf Coast ecosystem to its prespill condition.

From the early days of the spill, the Office of Restoration and Damage Assessment provided financial, technical, and administrative assistance to the Departmental bureaus and offices to meet the sudden and overwhelming need for calm experienced leadership, direction and internal and external coordination. During this critical phase, ORDA did the following:

- Expedited the designation of the Department's Authorized Official (AO), the individual leading the Department's natural resource damage assessment and restoration activities on behalf of the Secretary.
- Created a roster of experienced, qualified Departmental NRDA practitioners to help the AO develop the case team and provide immediate capacity to react to the spill.
- Provided a wide range of NRDA advice and guidance to Departmental leadership, management, and budget officials, as well as the Office of Management and Budget. This includes providing assistance to Departmental leadership on the process of and policies on documenting costs associated with this spill.
- Advised the AO on applying for funds through the Coast Guard National Pollution Funds Center (NPFC) for a variety of NRDA–related activities ranging from ephemeral data collection to the drafting of a Pre-Assessment Screen.
- Assisted the AO in preparing briefings for Departmental leadership, OMB, and congressional staff on the Oil Pollution Act, the NRDAR process, and funding

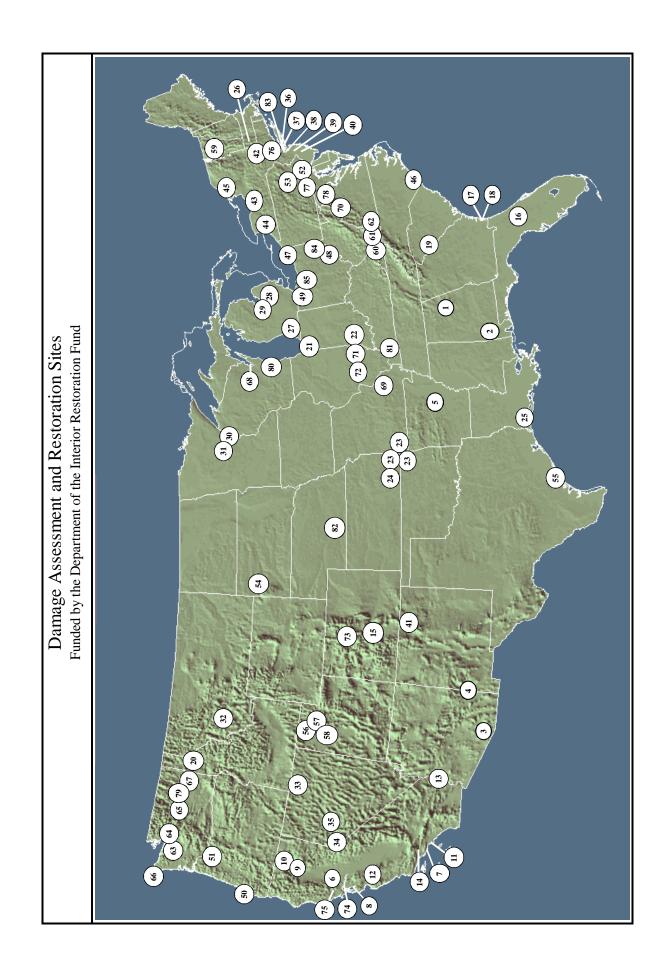
opportunities available through the NPFC and through direct reimbursement of funding from the Responsible Parties, principally, BP.

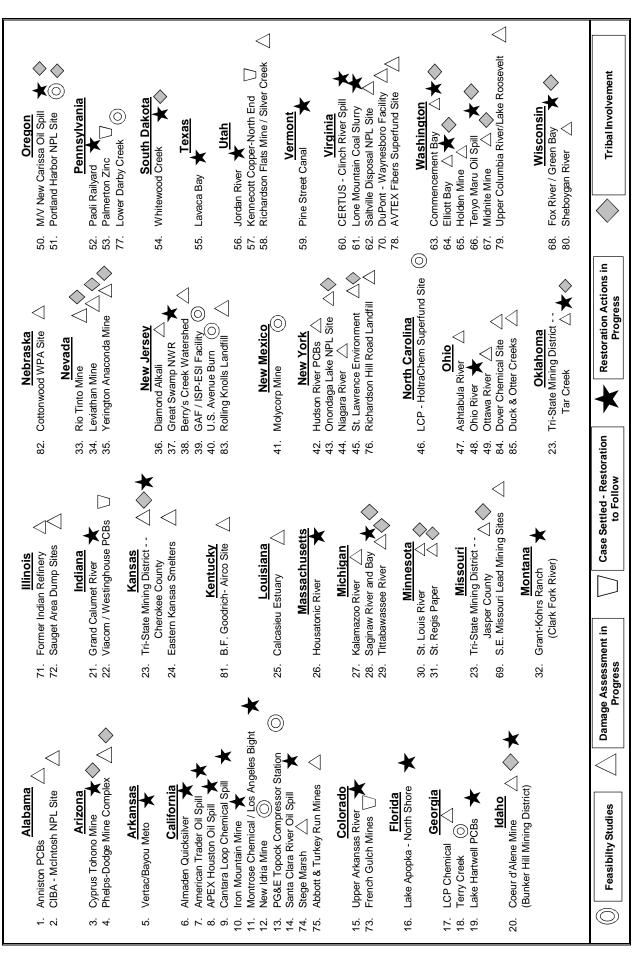
- ORDA, as manager of the DOI Restoration Fund, received and managed NRDAR funding from multiple sources during the incident and, with the help of the Office of the Solicitor, ensured that the monies were distributed to the bureaus as needed to accomplish high priority time-critical NRDAR tasks.
- Established a central information clearinghouse for use by the Department and its Trustee partners in managing a complex process and numerous technical working groups.
- Currently the Office, through its Restoration Support Unit, is providing valuable technical support to the AO in coordinating the activities of the restoration planning group and writing and reviewing draft restoration documents.

#### **2012 Activity Performance**

In 2012, the program will continue to utilize recovered past assessment costs from recent settlements and/or returned funds from completed assessments in addition to the \$3.7 million in appropriated funds contained in this request. These combined appropriated and recovered funds will support new or ongoing damage assessment efforts at approximately 35 sites and maintain the program's damage assessment capability at current levels. This level of funding will support new feasibility studies and initiation of assessments at new sites where warranted, as well as providing continued funding for ongoing cases. As has been the norm in recent years, the program anticipates that the annual project proposals received from the field will exceed the amount of available funding. The program will also continue its focus on the use of cooperative assessments, and pursue funding and participation agreements with potentially responsible parties wherever and whenever possible. Money provided under these funding agreements expands the program coverage by allowing other damage assessment cases to utilize the appropriated and returned assessment funds. In addition, the program will continue to refine its milestone reporting process and use that performance information to enhance management of its damage assessment workload.

The Program's current damage assessment project caseload through 2011 totals 55 ongoing cases (including feasibility studies) and are included on the following map and table.





#### **ACTIVITY: RESTORATION SUPPORT**

				201	12		
			Fixed Costs	Admin			Change
Natural Resource		2010	& Related	Cost	Program	2012	from
Damage Assessment	2010	Enacted/	Changes	Savings	Changes	Budget	2010
	Enacted	2011 CR	(+/-)	(-)	(+/-)	Request	(+/-)
Activity: Restoration Support							
\$000	615	615	+7	-8	0	614	-1
FTE	3	3	0	0	0	3	0

#### **Activity Overview:**

Every action the Restoration Program undertakes is done with the goal of restoration in mind. Upon the successful conclusion of a damage assessment and upon achieving settlement, Departmental bureaus, working in partnership with other affected State, Federal, tribal and/or foreign co-trustees, use settlement funds to carry out restoration activities. Under this activity, the Program continues its coordinated effort to focus greater attention on restoration activities and to expedite the expenditure of settlement funds to develop and implement resource restoration plans. The program's Restoration Support Unit staff provides engineering and ecological/biological support to the Department's case managers/teams, as well as assistance with meeting various legal and regulatory compliance requirements, identifying possible partnering opportunities, and drafting appropriate documents. In addition, the Program continues to work with the USGS in the field of restoration ecology to develop monitoring protocols to better measure the success of restoration efforts.

In meeting the statutory and regulatory requirements to restore, replace, or acquire the equivalent of the natural resources that were injured by the release of oil or hazardous materials, these restoration activities encompass a wide variety of projects that support the Department's mission of protecting natural and cultural resources. By working with the co-trustees on restoration activities, the Program is able to direct funds that contribute to the America's Great Outdoors initiative through ecological restoration, provide secondary support to the Strengthening Tribal Nations initiative via tribal co-trustee interactions, and engage youth in restoration activities and outdoor classrooms. These activities include multiple sites in high priority landscapes such as the Great Lakes, the California Bay/Delta, Chesapeake Bay, and the Gulf of Mexico; land acquisition for several National Wildlife Refuges and numerous State and local parks; protection and reintroduction of threatened and endangered species helping lead to their eventual recovery; and protection and restoration of essential habitat for migratory birds and fish.

Over ninety percent of all funds received and interest earned to date from natural resource damage case settlements are designated as restoration funds. These funds can only be used for restoration planning, implementation (including land acquisition), oversight, and monitoring of implemented restoration actions at a specific site or related to a specific settlement, and only after the issuance of a publicly-reviewed restoration plan. Because injured natural resources and services are restored by, or at the expense of the responsible party, these efforts come at minimal expense to American taxpayers.

Other Available Rest	oration Resour	ces
(Dollars in	\$000)	
	2010	2011
Settlement funds currently held in DOI Restoration Fund (estimate)	\$417,224	\$435,000
Settlement funds in various court registry accounts (estimate)	\$100,000	\$100,000

In addition to settlement funds deposited into the DOI Restoration Fund, the Department is party to other natural resource damage settlements where settlement funds are deposited into a Court Registry or some other account selected by the Trustees. Additionally, there are a number of settlements where the responsible parties have agreed to undertake or implement the restoration action, with trustee agencies providing oversight to ensure compliance with the terms of the settlement and adherence to the approved and public-reviewed restoration plan. Once fully implemented, the restoration actions are then subject to long-term monitoring by the trustees to ensure they have been effective and have accomplished the goals and intent of the restoration plan.

#### **2012 Activity Performance:**

In 2012, the Program will continue a variety of activities focused on furthering the achievement of restoration, primarily through the Restoration Support Unit in Denver. The focus of this activity will continue to be to provide assistance to the field for the sole purpose of getting restoration accomplished on the ground. As the focal point for the Program's restoration efforts nationwide, in 2012 the Unit will continue to support and facilitate restoration led by the bureaus at sites where damage claims have been settled. In addition, the Unit expects to have compiled a significant amount of information on restoration successes and actual restoration costs. The collection of this data will help damage assessment case teams improve the strength of their damage claims in the future. The Restoration Support Unit continues to provide technical support to case teams to facilitate multiple aspects of restoration, including contracting, restoration planning, engineering support, and seeking out partnership opportunities and matching funds.

In addition, Unit staff will lead technology transfer and outreach activities to ensure that restoration advances made by individual case teams will be shared with fellow restoration practitioners. Examples include development of training modules to be taught at the FWS and BLM training centers and the organization of seminar sessions at the Restoration Program's annual workshop.

The program will continue to implement administrative and regulatory reforms that resulted from recommendations provided by field practitioners, co-trustees, and stakeholders. Specific restoration support activities in response to these recommendations include a partnership with the Society for Ecological Restorations to develop and maintain an inventory of restoration plans, opportunities, and success stories. The Restoration Program will also develop and implement

policies and guidance to coordinate NRD restoration planning and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance actions.

The program will continue to work with the U.S. Geological Survey to implement restoration science advances. Scientists from the USGS are working with the Restoration Support Unit to develop protocols to improve the monitoring and management of restoration processes and effective measures of restoration success on historically contaminated lands. Because ecosystems are dynamic, restoration monitoring protocols must serve as triggers for corrective actions and adaptive management and be incorporated into restoration plans. USGS and the Restoration Support Unit are working with restoration scientists in the public and private sector to develop a primer for restoration monitoring that will provide the guidance necessary to ensure successful restorations. These efforts are focusing on species distributions, abundance and diversity, invasive species, community development and ecosystem resiliency. A special symposium in conjunction with the Society for Ecotoxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) will be convened in July 2011, where Interior Department restoration practitioners will join experts from academia and industry to discuss the role of global climate change in environmental responses to chemical exposure, address how climate change may affect the damage assessment process, and explore how restoration activities may aid in the adaptation and mitigation of climate change effects in the environment.

USGS and the Restoration Support Unit will continue its efforts with the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) to highlight Departmental restoration projects on the SER Global Restoration Network (<a href="http://www.globalrestorationnetwork.org/">http://www.globalrestorationnetwork.org/</a>), a freely accessible internet-based platform where practitioners as well as stakeholders and the general public can go to obtain extensive information on restoration successes and lessons learned in the process. By documenting restoration activities and their ultimate success, the Program can maintain transparency in the process that returns ecosystem services lost as a result of chemical contamination.

These efforts bring USGS science expertise to address the ecological restoration of species and habitats injured by the release of oil or other hazardous substances and the monitoring and measurement of restoration success. Although many scientifically valid techniques are available to document the extent and severity of injury to natural resources, restoration science is still in its infancy. Several multidisciplinary efforts within USGS are underway to strengthen the state of restoration science, reduce disagreements with responsible parties, and achieve more timely and effective restoration.

Improving the science in the design, implementation, and monitoring of type-specific restoration projects will increase the understanding of issues critical to restoration success, thus benefiting the Restoration Program as a whole, as well as enabling "technology transfer" opportunities to other Departmental restoration efforts, including the Everglades, California Bay-Delta, and Gulf Coast.

#### **RESTORING INJURED RESOURCES**

The following are examples of recent on-the-ground restoration accomplishments achieved by the Interior bureaus and their co-trustees at a number of selected sites:

#### Grand Calumet River, Indiana

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its Trustee partners (the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources) have completed the first phase of the restoration of the West Branch of the Grand Calumet River. Over several decades, a number of factories, refineries, and other manufacturing facilities had released oil and pollutants into the Grand Calumet River, leading to multiple injuries to natural resources and nearly \$70 million in natural resource damage settlements. In 2010, the Trustees provided \$11.6 million from the NRDAR settlement as the local cost share to leverage \$21.5 million of Great Lakes Legacy Act funding. The Great Lakes Legacy Act, administered by the Environmental Protection Agency, provides federal money that is matched by local funding to clean up polluted sediment along the shores and waterways of the Great Lakes. The \$33 million project has been undertaken to remove and cap heavily contaminated sediment along a stretch of the river in Hammond, Ind. Native grasses, flowers, trees and shrubs have also been planted along riverbanks and upland areas to restore the river shoreline, providing habitat for migratory songbirds and improving water quality by reducing runoff into the stream. The Grand Calumet River originates in the east end of Gary, Indiana, and flows 13 miles through the cities of Gary, East Chicago, and Hammond, Indiana.



Contaminated sediment removal - the first phase of Grand Calumet River, IN stream restoration. (FWS photo)

The West Branch component of the project entailed the removal of about 92,000 cubic yards of polluted sediment along a one-mile stretch of the river. The removal of the sediment will be followed by the placement of a cap over the dredged area. The sediment contains pollutants such as PCBs and PAHs (polychlorinated biphenyls and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons), heavy metals, and pesticides.

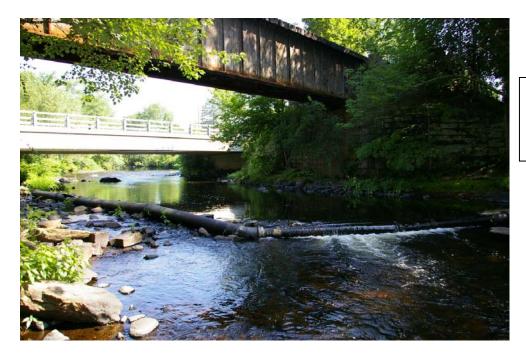
This unique region is one of the most industrialized areas in the country as well as home to some of the most diverse native plant and animal communities in the Great Lakes Basin. Related upland restoration activities near the Grand Calumet River have been under way for many years, including the use of settlement funds to protect and restore of rare habitats such as dune and swale and native prairies. The project area is part of a larger Chicago/Northwest Indiana Corridor where a regional restoration plan is in place. The sediment cleanup and shoreline restoration will complement the habitat restoration efforts.



Section of Grand Calumet River, post-restoration (FWS photo)

#### River Restoration Projects, Connecticut

Settlements at two different Superfund sites in Connecticut allowed the Department to initiate multiple restoration projects that have led to improvements in fish habitats, streamside habitats, and greater public access. In one case, contaminants from the Yaworski Lagoon Superfund Site near Plainfield, CT, had adversely affected riverine habitat downstream from the Moosup River. At this site, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, working with local partners, utilized a \$40,000 settlement to remove an antiquated cast iron pipe that crossed the stream, forming a small dam that blocked upstream and downstream fish passage. The removal of the pipe reconnects more than 5 miles of riverine habitat, benefiting resident fish and other aquatic organisms.



BEFORE – JUNE 2008
Antiquated cast-iron pipe
blocking Moosup River,
near Plainfield, CT
(FWS photo)

AFTER – SEPT. 2010
With pipe removed,
natural stream flows
and fish passage were
restored
(Photo – D. Sperduto)



Trustees from the Fish and Wildlife Service also worked with State and local governments and organizations in Connecticut to utilize funds from a settlement with the General Electric Company. The settlement compensates the public for injuries stemming from PCB contamination generated upstream in the Housatonic River watershed near Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

The first acquisition, in New Milford, CT, is a 25-acre parcel with over a quarter mile of river frontage. The property will be cleared of invasive plants and become a town park, managed primarily for wildlife habitat and wildlife viewing, as well as flood control. The property contains a floodplain forest and intermittently flooded grasslands, which will also serve as an outdoor classroom for schools and Scout groups. The second acquisition area encompasses 3.5 acres along the banks of the Naugatuck River, a tributary to the Housatonic. Residents of the town of Harwinton overwhelmingly supported the purchase of this riverfront property that was the historic site of early water-powered business development in the region. The property will be managed locally for public fishing access.

#### Fox River/Green Bay, Wisconsin

Historically, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its co-trustee partners (the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, and the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin) on the Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council have been very active in developing and implementing restoration projects to compensate the public for injuries to multiple natural resources and diminished recreational fishing activities stemming from PCBs released into the Lower Fox River. To date, the Trustee Council has implemented over 100 restoration projects utilizing \$36 million in settlement funds matched by an additional \$22 million from conservation partners.

In 2010, Trustee Council conservation partners received \$2.4 million in grant funding from EPA, through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). The GLRI is a major federal initiative, the largest investment in the Great Lakes in two decades, addressing contaminated sediments and other major threats to the Great Lakes. The Trustees are matching the EPA grant with \$1.7 million of NRDA settlement funding to implement two major restoration projects. In the first project, the Trustees and EPA provided \$2.6 million to Brown County, Wisconsin, to restore the Cat Island Chain, a 272-acre chain of islands along the western shore of Green Bay. The reestablishment of the island chain will create a wave shadow restoring more than 620 acres of high quality shallow water habitat for diverse populations of native fishes, waterbirds, and mammals, and it will create a major stopover for migrating waterfowl. In the second project, the Trustees and EPA awarded \$1.5 million to Brown County and Oconto County to restore wetland and floodplain habitat important for northern pike spawning on the west shore of Green Bay. The restoration of the riparian buffers along with permanent conservation easements will improve adult pike access to upstream, inland wetland areas used for spawning and rearing sites. The restored buffers will also limit sediments, nutrients, and pesticides entering into streams from cropland thereby protecting habitat and quality plankton production areas needed for feeding young pike.

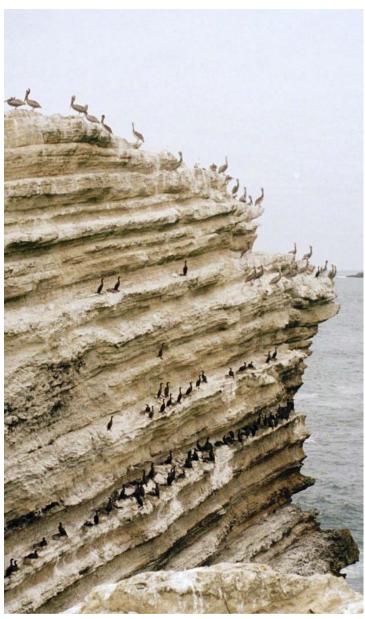


Newly-planted conservation buffer to prevent runoff and protect northern pike habitat (FWS photo)

EPA awarded an additional \$2.5 million for three other projects within the Fox River/Green Bay watershed that will complement the Trustee Council's restoration goals and activities. These projects will create buffer strips to reduce sedimentation in one drainage basin, restore stream habitat in a second drainage basin, and control invasive plants along the coast of Lake Michigan to improve fish and wildlife habitat.

#### Torch/Platform Irene Oil Spill, California

The Torch/Platform Irene Oil Spill Trustee Council continues to implement a number of restoration projects addressing injuries to seabirds arising from a 1997 oil spill from a pipeline into the Santa Barbara Channel. These restoration projects focus on Brown Pelicans, Brandt's Cormorants, Pigeon Guillemots, Black Oystercatchers, and Western Gulls, the species most heavily impacted by the oil spill. In addition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management, the Trustees include two California state agencies, NOAA, and the U.S. Air Force.



Colonies of Brandt's Cormorants and Brown Pelicans, two of the species benefitting from the Torch/Platform Irene restoration (Photo by PRBO Conservation Science)

In 2010, the Trustees directed \$1.2 million of settlement funds to the Bureau of Land Management to establish the Seabird Colony Enhancement Project over a 300-mile long project area. The goal of the project is to restore populations of nesting and roosting seabirds by reducing multiple kinds of human disturbances to colonies and to monitor progress toward recovery of seabird populations since the spill. This design of this effort is modeled after the successful work of the Command Oil Spill Trustee Council to establish a similar Seabird Protection Network further north on California coast near San Francisco from Monterey County to Sonoma County.

The Trustees conducted aerial overflights of the Central California coast from Point Sur (Monterey County) south to Point Conception (Santa Barbara County) in late May to document the existing population of seabird colonies. levels An education specialist from California Department of State Parks Recreation is implementing outreach and media programs to involve key groups within the general public, such as fishermen, recreation groups and pilots. Through outreach efforts such public as service

announcements, information kiosks, and displays at highly visited beaches and bluffs, Trustees can inform the public about seabirds, their biology, habitat requirements for nesting and roosting, and the ways that people can contribute to assisting recovery of seabird colonies in the project area through their own behavior and concern.

Bird biologists from a non-governmental organization, PRBO Conservation Science, have mapped permanent locations from which to observe reproductive success at nesting colonies at least weekly during the nesting season in 2011 and beyond. BLM and PRBO are working jointly with local communities in the impact area to establish long-term citizen-science cadres of local residents to monitor important areas of seabird concentrations throughout the year. In addition, the Trustees are working with Federal, State, county, and municipal law enforcement agencies to educate the public on the legal basis for protecting seabirds from human disturbances and how to avoid unintended disturbances to seabirds.

The trustees are especially concerned about the seabird colonies closest to population centers because of the potential detrimental impact of human activity on seabird populations. Specifically, Trustees are focusing on colonies near the Vandenberg Air Force Base, the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant, and Morro Rock near San Luis Obispo. These activities are providing essential information about eventual needs for access control and habitat improvements for seabird colonies in the project area. Observations will extend to remote colonies in southern Monterey County in future seasons.

#### **ACTIVITY: PROGRAM MANAGEMENT**

			2012				
			Fixed Costs	Admin			Change
N. ( ID		2010			-	2012	Change
Natural Resource		2010	& Related	Cost	Program	2012	from
Damage Assessment	2010	Enacted/	Changes	Savings	Changes	Budget	2010
	Enacted	2011 CR	(+/-)	(-)	(+/-)	Request	(+/-)
Activity: Program Management							
\$000	1,825	1,825	+60	-54	+75	1,906	+81
FTE	6	7	0	0	0	7	0

#### **Activity Overview:**

Program Management provides the strategic vision, direction, management, and coordination of inter-Departmental activities necessary for the Restoration Program to carry out its mission. In short, it manages the intersection of complex interdisciplinary relationships among biology, environmental toxicology, natural resource management, economics, and law. The Program Management activity allocates damage assessment project funding; monitors program performance and ensures accountability; provides the framework for identifying and resolving issues that have significant management or policy implications; develops the Department's policies and regulations for conducting and managing damage assessment and restoration cases; responds to Departmental, Office of Management and Budget, and Congressional inquiries; and ensures coordination among Federal, State, and tribal governments.

Program Management funding enables the program to maintain support for bureau workgroup representation, ensuring essential integrated program coordination across the Department. The request includes funds for program support positions in the five bureaus with primary trust resource management roles (BIA, BLM, BOR, FWS, and NPS), technical support offices (USGS, Office of Policy Analysis, and the Office of the Solicitor). The Program Office currently provides \$85,000 (approximately 0.6 FTE) to each participating bureau for workgroup participation and program support. Bureau representatives to the workgroup serve as a conduit of Program policy and technical communications to and from their bureaus, while also serving as the principal program managers within their respective organizations. A fully integrated Departmental program requires at least this level of bureau participation on the workgroup and Program Management Team, as well as continued technical support in science, economics, and law.

In 2011, the Program Office continues to enhance its outreach to tribes in two significant ways. First, it continues its monthly conference calls with any tribal co-trustees that have an interest in the natural resources and restoration activities of the Department. Secondly, the program has begun a tribal training initiative wherein it partners with the interested tribal co-trustees to design natural resource damage assessment training for tribal members and technical consultants. By utilizing existing Departmental and tribal training resources, co-trustees will develop a NRDA curriculum targeted specifically to tribal resources. In addition to improving relationships among co-trustees, the Program is embarking upon an equally ambitious effort to maintain and improve communications with State co-trustees through the initiation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (AFWA). The AFWA

MOU will facilitate communications between the Program and State co-trustees on issues of mutual interest, which will inform the development of policies, improved assessment techniques, and potential regulatory revisions.

The Restoration Program Office has continued the deployment and use of improved information technology tools in 2011 by developing program document libraries on the Program's SHAREPOINT site. These improvements and the enhanced use of information technology by the Program Office will bring it in line with the Secretary's priorities to reduce travel and its carbon footprint while increasing internal communications efficiency.

The 2012 budget request presumes the completed execution of an internal transfer of \$75,000 proposed in 2011, moving funds from the Damage Assessment activity. This transfer funds an additional FTE, which will enable the Program Office to more effectively manage the growing budget and financial stewardship requirements, made necessary as the result of increased volume and complexity of financial and budgetary transactions in its day-to-day operations. The Restoration Program Office expects to hire this new staffer in the spring of 2011.

#### 2012 Program Performance:

All current Program Management efforts and activities are focused on providing the tools, processes, or infrastructure to achieving restoration of injured natural resources. As part of the Department's effort to identify administrative savings and efficiencies, in 2012, the Program Office will seek to broaden its use of information technology in communications with the Program's workgroup, bureaus, State, tribal and other Federal agency partners as follows:

- Enhance and improve information on the Program's website (http://restoration.doi.gov) through improved design, accessibility, and content.
- Use the DOI SHAREPOINT system for all internal communications with the Program workgroup, Executive Board, and bureaus.
- Use, to the maximum extent possible, video conferencing capabilities for monthly and periodic workgroup meetings and other policy team development meetings in lieu of travel.
- Develop a more-focused performance-based project funding application process, to be housed on the SHAREPOINT platform.

The 2012 request level will support the continued Departmental communication, consultation, and coordination activities with Federal, State, and tribal co-trustees, the environmental community, and industry. Continued cooperation and coordination with co-trustees will enhance opportunities for efficiencies and enable the Program to identify and eliminate duplicative activities.

Program management activities in 2012 will also continue efforts to develop, refine and update a number of existing administrative and policy tools, with an eye towards improved consistency and effectiveness. Among these efforts are the following:

- Continue to evaluate the appropriate role and use of economic analytical tools (e.g. habitat and resource equivalency analyses) used in damage assessment and restoration activities.
- Coordinate with other trustees and restoration funding entities (U.S. Coast Guard's National Pollution Funds Center) to continue the development of common cost documentation practices and formats to ensure consistency and uniformity.
- Continue improvement of public outreach and information sharing through internet-based applications and websites.
- Adopt procedures that promote coordination between response and NRDAR activities.
- Sponsor a series of workshops, research papers, and symposiums to link the scale of restoration to the nature and extent of the injury.
- Ensure that compliance by Federal trustees with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act occurs concurrently with restoration planning.
- Enhance its NRDAR partnerships, through improvements in grants, cooperative agreements, and contracting.
- Encourage the use of existing local and regional restoration plans and databases for use in NRDAR.

Continued development and broader use of these and other tools will help ensure inter-Departmental consistency and compatibility of information and systems, allowing the program to serve as a model for integrated Department-wide natural resources management.

The Program continues to enjoy a good relationship with the other Federal agencies involved in NRDAR activities either directly (i.e. NOAA and NPFC) or indirectly (i.e. EPA and DOE). In 2011, the program will continue to reach out to industry by participating in industry symposia and discussion groups on NRDAR issues and policy. The Program will enter into an MOU with the Protection and Indemnity Clubs (P&I Clubs) that outlines how to work together cooperatively as recommended by OPA regulations) during marine spill incidents involving vessels that the Clubs insure (about 95% of all vessels afloat).

As a cost-saving measure in response to diminished travel budgets, starting in 2011, the Program will transition from sponsoring an annual national workshop to a biennial schedule. In recent years, this workshop has provided training for over 180 practitioners from across the Department on a variety of topics including project management, damage claim development, restoration methods and other scientific and legal issues. Over 50 State, tribal, and Federal co-trustees, along with representatives from industry and the conservation community attended the most recent workshop, exemplifying the collaborative approach of the Department and its co-trustees.

#### Program Support of Bureau, Department, and Government-wide Costs:

Section 405 of the 2010 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act directs the disclosure of overhead, administrative, and other types of administrative support spending. The provision requires that budgets disclose current amounts and practices with regard to overhead charges, deductions, reserves, or holdbacks from program funding to support government-wide, Departmental, or bureau administrative functions or headquarters, regional, or central office operations. Changes to such estimates trigger reprogramming procedures, which require approval from the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

For 2012, the Restoration Program's costs related to overhead, administration, and central/regional operations are addressed in three components of the budget, all under the heading of External Administrative Costs. These costs include amounts paid to the Department or other Executive Branch agencies to support Departmental or Government-wide administrative costs.

External Administrative Costs (Dollars in Thousands)						
	2010 Enacted	2010 Enacted / 2011 CR	2012 Budget Request			
DOI Working Capital Fund						
Centralized Billings	96	96	96			
Fee for Services	0	0	0			
Direct Billings	162	177	199			
Reimbursables	0	0	0			
Total, Working Capital Fund	258	273	295			
Fish and Wildlife Service						
FWS User-Pay Cost Share	204	143	136			
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management						
Personnel / HR Services	27	30	30			
U.S. Geological Survey						
Common Services Support	31	45	45			
U.S. Department of Justice DOJ Sec. 108 3% Offset Authority	2,825	300	300			

Charges related to the Departmental Working Capital Fund reflect the Restoration Program's share of centralized Departmental expenses for items and services such as telecommunications, security, mailroom services, costs associated with audited financial statements, and other Working Capital Fund charges.

The Fish and Wildlife Service levies its User-Pay Cost Share charges on damage assessment funds it receives from the Restoration Program. Funds it collects are used to offset a range of

FWS administrative costs. For 2011, User-Pay Cost Share charges to the Restoration Program will be \$142,462. For 2012, FWS estimates those charges will be \$135,710.

Charges related to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (formerly Minerals Management Service) reflect the Restoration Program's share of personnel management and human resources services provided to the Office of the Secretary, covering items such as HR policies and procedures, staffing and delegated examining, employee classification, SES appointments, personnel security, reorganizations, and reductions-in-force.

The U.S. Geological Survey applies a seven percent administrative overhead charge to all funds it receives. These charges are collected by the Columbia Environmental Research Center and are used to offset common client administrative and facility expenses.

The Department of Justice applies a three percent offset to some, but not all, civil litigation debt collections made on behalf of the Restoration Program. Authority for these offsets can be found in Section 108 of the Commerce, Justice, and State Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1994 (P.L. 103-121). The offset is applicable to collections where the Department is the sole recipient of the funds. Funds subject to the offset authority are credited to the DOJ Working Capital Fund. The DOJ offset authority does not apply to restoration settlements jointly shared with non-Federal co-trustees that are collected by DOJ and deposited into the DOI Restoration Fund. The actual charges for 2010 include offset charges of \$2.6 million related to the ASARCO bankruptcy settlement, received in December 2009.

The Program Management activity, which includes Restoration Program administrative functions and central and regional operations, does not assess or levy any internal program overhead charges, deductions, or holdbacks to support such operations.

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND RESTORATION RESTORATION FUND

Program and Financing (in the	ousands of dollars)
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	am and Financing (in thousands of dollars) fication code 14-1618-0-1-302	1	2010	
lueliti	incation code 14-1016-0-1-302	2010 Actual	Enacted / 2011 CR	2012 Request
Obliga	ations by program activity:			
	Direct Program:			
0001	Damage Assessments	20,361	14,000	8,000
0002	Prince William Sound Restoration	1,762	2,000	2,000
0003	Other Restoration	29,878		35,000
0004	Program Management	5,713	3,000	3,000
0900	Total, Direct program	57,714	53,000	48,000
<u>Budge</u>	etary resources available for obligation:			
1000	Unobligated balance carried forward, Oct. 1	274,986	486,717	483,179
1021	Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	333	0	0
1010	Unobligated balance transferred to other accounts	-4,811	-14,000	-5,000
	(Funds Transferrred to DOC/NOAA 13-4316)	[-4,360]	[-14,000]	[-5,000]
	(Funds Transferrred to Forest Service 12-9921)	[-451]	[0]	[0]
1050	Unobligated balance (total)	270,508	472,717	478,179
	Budget Authority			
	Appropriations, discretionary			
1100	Appropriation	6,462	6,462	6,263
	Appropriations, mandatory			
1200	Appropriation (Special fund)	270,714	60,000	60,000
1220	Appropriation transferred to other accounts	-3,253	-3,000	-3,000
	(Funds Transferrred to DOC/NOAA 13-4316)	[-3,222]	[-3,000]	[-3,000]
	(Funds Transferrred to Forest Service 12-9921)	[-31]	[0]	[0]
1260	Appropriations (mandatory) total	267,461	57,000	57,000
1900	Budget Authority (total)	273,923	63,462	63,263
1930	Total budgetary resources available	544,431	536,179	541,442
Men	norandum (non-add) entries:			
1941		486,717	483,179	493,442
Chan	ge in obligated balance:			
	Obligated balance, start of year (net):			
3000	Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct. 1 (gross)	12,071	24,050	27,050
3003	Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	57,714	53,000	48,000
3040	Outlays, gross (-)	-45,402	-50,000	-57,000
3080	Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations (-)	-333	Ó	0
2300		230		
3090	Obligated balance, end of year (net): Unpaid obligations, end of year (gross)	24,050	27,050	18,050
5030	Oripaid obligations, end or year (gross)	24,000	21,000	10,030

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND RESTORATION RESTORATION FUND

Program and Financing (in thousands of dollars)

Identi	fication code 14-1618-0-1-302		2010	
		2010 Actual	Enacted / 2011 CR	2012 Request
Budge	et authority and outlays, net:			
Disc	retionary:			
4000	Budget authority, gross	6,462	6,462	6,263
Οι	utlays, gross			
4010	Outlays from new discretionary authority	2,228	4,423	4,384
4011	Outlays from discretionary balances	3,839	2,039	1,939
4020	Outlays, gross (total)	6,067	6,462	6,323
Man	datory:			
4090	Budget authority, gross	267,461	57,000	57,000
Οι	utlays, gross			
4100	Outlays from new mandatory authority	31,885	3,000	3,350
4101	Outlays from mandatory balances	7,450	41,000	48,000
4110	Outlays, gross (total)	39,335	44,000	51,350
Net bu	udget authority and outlays:			
89.00	Budget authority	273,923	63,462	63,263
90.00	Outlays	45,402	50,462	57,673
Investments in U.S. securities				
5000	Total investments, start of year U.S. securities, par value	241,686	452,617	500,000
5001	Total investments, end of year U.S. securities, par value	452,617	500,000	540,000

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND RESTORATION RESTORATION FUND

Object classification (in thousands of dollars) Identification code 14-1618-0-1-302 2010	2010 Enacted /	
	Lilacted /	2012
Actual	2011 CR	Request
DIRECT OBLIGATIONS		
Personnel compensation:		
11.1 Full-time permanent 1,111	1,025	1,150
11.3 Other than full-time permanent 0	35	35
11.5 Other personnel compensation 32	10	10
11.9 Total personnel compensation 1,143	1,070	1,195
12.1 Civilian personnel benefits 286	276	325
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons 84	70	65
22.0 Transportation of things	1	1
23.1 Rental payments to GSA 94	107	121
23.3 Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges 4		3
24.0 Printing and reproduction 3		0
25.2 Other services 5		25
25.3 Purchases of goods & services from other govt. accounts 3,179		1,600
26.0 Supplies and materials 32		12
31.0 Equipment 19		10
41.0 Grants 10,070		13,000
99.9 Subtotal, direct obligations 14,920	16,271	16,357
ALLOCATION ACCOUNTS		
Personnel compensation:		
11.1 Full-time permanent 5,398	1	5,450
11.3 Other than full-time permanent 1,807		1,850
11.5 Other personnel compensation 2,104	1	450
11.8 Special personnel services payment 143		7.750
11.9 Total personnel compensation 9,452		7,750
12.1 Civilian personnel benefits 2,226	1	1,925
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons 1,638		650
22.0 Transportation of things 12		8
23.1 Rental payments to GSA 145		175
23.2 Rental payments to others		100
23.3 Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges 48		65
24.0 Printing and reproduction 6		7
25.1 Advisory and assistance services 213		90
25.2 Other services 11,700		9,023
25.3 Purchases of goods & services from other govt. accounts 1,909		2,070
25.4 Operation & maintenance of facilities 48		50 50
25.7 Operation & maintenance of equipment 49 26.0 Supplies and materials 473		50 500
26.0 Supplies and materials 473 31.0 Equipment 267		500 180
32.0 Land and structures 6,574		2,800
41.0 Grants 7,915		6,200
99.0 Subtotal obligations - Allocation Accounts 42,794		
99.9 Total obligations 57,714		

### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND RESTORATION RESTORATION FUND

Obligation Summary (in thousands of dollars)

Identification code 14-1618-0-1-302		2010	
	2010 Actual	Enacted / 2011 CR	2012 Request
Obligations are distributed as follows:			
Natural Resource Damage Assessment Program Office	14,920	16,271	16,357
Bureau of Indian Affairs	868	1,000	1,500
Bureau of Land Management	814	1,100	1,000
Bureau of Reclamation	6,555	1,429	500
Fish and Wildlife Service	28,464	26,500	23,500
National Park Service	4,105	3,600	3,200
Office of the Secretary	405	400	325
U.S. Geological Survey	1,583	2,700	2,517
99.9 Total obligations	57,714	53,000	48,899

#### **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR** NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND RESTORATION **EMPLOYEE COUNT BY GRADE**

	2010 Actual	2010 Enacted/ 2011 CR	2012 Estimate
Executive Level	0	0	0
SES	1	1	1
CA-3 *	0	0	0
AL-2-3 **	0	0	0
SL-0 ***	0	0	0
subtotal	1	1	1
GS/GM-15	1	1	1
GS/GM-14	2	2	2
GS/GM-13	5	5	5
GS-12	0	0	0
GS-11	0	0	0
GS-10		0	0
GS-9		0	1
GS-8	0	0	0
GS-7	0	1	0
GS-6	0	0	0
GS-5	0	0	0
GS-4	0	0	0
GS-3	0	0	0
GS-2	0	0	0
subtotal (GS/GM)	8	9	9
Total employment (actual / projected) at end of fiscal year	9	10	10
at chie of floodi your	J		10

<sup>\*</sup>CA - DOI Board Member

<sup>\*\*</sup>AL - Administrative Law Judge
\*\*\*SL - Senior-Level / Scientific Professionals