

[FULL COMMITTEE PRINT]

109TH CONGRESS }
2d Session }

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES {

REPORT
109—

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND
RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATION BILL, 2007

MAY, 2006.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the
Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, from the Committee on
Appropriations, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R.]

The Committee on Appropriations submits the following report in explanation of the accompanying bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, Environmental Protection Agency, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007. The bill provides regular annual appropriations for the Department of the Interior (except the Bureau of Reclamation), the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other related agencies, including the Forest Service, the Indian Health Service, the Smithsonian Institution, and the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities.

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Construction program management	38,360,000
Dam safety	2,623,000
Managed partnership projects	300,000
Total Construction	229,934,000

Other.—The Committee has included \$300,000 to continue work on the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Illinois, \$2,500,000 for rehabilitation work at Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Ohio, \$2,000,000 for streambank erosion work at Moccasin Bend NAD in Tennessee, and \$2,500,000 for the Southwest Pennsylvania Heritage Commission in Pennsylvania.

The Committee has also included \$620,000 for Gateway National Recreation Area for comfort stations and an updated development plan for Miller Field. In considering alternatives for improvements at Miller Field, the Service should focus on the most critical and high priority requirements to improve conditions at this high-use area. Total costs for improvements must be realistic and attainable in the current budget environment. The components of the plan will have to be implemented in phases, so small increments must necessarily be a part of any plan. The Service should also use this planning process to pursue partnerships with the leagues and users of these recreational areas.

The Committee is aware of delays in executing a line-item project funded in fiscal year 2004 for reconstruction of historic guard walls along the Blue Ridge Parkway and that these funds remain unobligated. In view of the need to complete other construction projects underway at the Blue Ridge Parkway, and given the higher costs now contemplated for the guard wall project, the Service is directed to reprogram these funds, as necessary, to complete the construction of the visitor center under construction near Asheville, North Carolina.

The Committee has included \$365,000 in the General Management Plans account to complete the Manhattan Project Plan.

Bill language.—Bill language on the South Florida Restoration project has been modified from current law to include a provision making funds contingent on the continuation of the consent decree in United States v. South Florida Water Management District.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

(RESCISSION)

Appropriation enacted, 2006	-\$30,000,000
Budget estimate, 2007	-30,000,000
Recommended, 2007	-30,000,000
Comparison:	
Appropriation, 2006	0
Budget estimate, 2007	0

The Committee recommends the rescission of \$30,000,000 in the annual contract authority provided by 16 U.S.C. 461-10a. This authority has not been used in years, and there are no plans to use it in fiscal year 2007.

LAND ACQUISITION AND STATE ASSISTANCE

Appropriation enacted, 2006	\$46,954,000
Budget estimate, 2007	24,343,000
Recommended, 2007	29,995,000
Comparison:	
Appropriation, 2006	-16,959,000
Budget estimate, 2007	+5,652,000

The Committee recommends \$29,995,000 for land acquisition and State assistance, a decrease of \$16,959,000 below the enacted level and an increase of \$5,652,000 above the request.

The Committee recommends the following distribution of funds:

Chickamauga-Chattanooga NMP, TN	\$2,000,000
Cuyahoga Valley NP, OH	500,000
Flight 93, PA	5,000,000
Ice Age, WI	2,000,000
Indiana Dunes NL, IN	1,000,000
Mt. Rainier Carbon Creek River Gateway, WA	1,500,000
Shenandoah NB, VA	2,000,000
Subtotal	14,000,000
Emergencies & Hardships	3,349,000
Inholdings	2,000,000
Acquisition Management	9,021,000
Stateside Administration	1,625,000
Total	\$29,995,000

Funds provided for the Flight 93 Memorial are to be used to acquire authorized lands at fair market value established through the federal appraisal process.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

Bill language has been included to allow the transfer of \$66,000 to the Washington Tennis and Education Foundation for recreation and education programs for at-risk school children in the District of Columbia.

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) was established by an act of Congress on March 3, 1879 to provide a permanent Federal agency to conduct the systematic and scientific "classification of the public lands, and examination of the geological structure, mineral resources, and products of the National domain". The USGS is the Federal government's largest earth science research agency, the Nation's largest civilian mapping agency, and the primary source of data on the Nation's surface and ground water resources. Its activities include conducting detailed assessments of the energy and mineral potential of the Nation's land and offshore areas; investigating and issuing warnings of earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, and other geologic and hydrologic hazards; research on the geologic structure of the Nation; studies of the geologic features, structure, processes, and history of other planets of our solar system; topographic surveys of the Nation and preparation of topographic and thematic maps and related products.

(dollars in thousands)		Request Recommended		Enacted	
	FY 2007	FY 2007	FY 2007	FY 2007	FY 2007
	Request	Recommended	Enacted	Request	Enacted
Federal-State program	62,833	62,171	64,171	+1,338	+2,000
Water resources research institutes	6,404	---	6,404	---	+6,404
Subtotal, Water Resources Investigations	211,764	204,047	213,791	+2,027	+9,744
Biological Research	136,416	135,692	137,692	+1,276	+2,000
Biological research and monitoring	23,794	21,967	22,967	-827	+1,000
Biological information management and delivery	14,664	14,938	14,938	+274	---
Cooperative research units	174,874	172,597	175,597	+723	+3,000
Subtotal, Biological Research	46,394	111,230	113,730	+67,336	+2,500
Enterprise information security and technology	24,866	25,972	25,972	+1,106	---
Enterprise information resources	16,900	16,636	17,136	+236	+500
Federal geographic data coordination	4,628	68,622	70,622	+65,994	+2,000
Subtotal, Enterprise Information	94,782	67,382	72,382	+3,080	+5,000
Science support	69,302	67,382	72,382	+3,080	+5,000
Facilities	8,970	95,472	95,472	+690	---
Emergency appropriations (P.L. 109-148)	970,645	944,760	991,447	+20,802	+46,687
TOTAL, UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY	1,511,110	1,481,110	1,511,110	+20,802	+46,687

The Committee recommends \$991,447,000 for surveys, investigations, and research, an increase of \$46,687,000 above the budget request and \$20,802,000 above the fiscal year 2006 enacted level. The discussion below references changes to the budget enacted level.

Geographic Research, Investigations, and Remote Sensing.—The Committee recommends \$78,614,000 for geographic research and remote sensing, \$2,000,000 above the budget request and \$50,659,000 below the fiscal year 2006 enacted level. The large reduction from the enacted is due to the transfer of funds for the former cooperative topographic mapping program to the Federal geographic data coordination subactivity within the enterprise information activity. The Committee agrees with Administration efforts to streamline geographic investigations and enhance national service; this is better accomplished by consolidating geographic efforts in the enterprise activity as recommended in the request. Change in the enterprise activity is an increase of \$2,000,000 for the AmericaView cooperative geographic program; this program provides service to many States and communities and leverages Federal funding with many partners.

The Committee has fully funded the requested funds, \$15,950,000, for the Landsat Data Continuity Mission, which will place the next generation Landsat sensor in orbit. Long-term remote sensing data is vital to many aspects of the government and private sector and is strongly supported by this Committee. This funding will complement the larger commitment required by the NASA.

Geologic Hazards, Resources and Processes.—The Committee recommends \$241,861,000 for geologic hazards, resources, and processes, \$24,443,000 above the budget request and \$6,575,000 above the fiscal year 2006 enacted level. The recommendation includes the requested increase of \$2,000,000 for energy resources research activities. Changes from the request for geologic landscape research coastal assessments program include an increase of \$500,000 to restore partially the Florida shelf research effort and \$1,000,000 for hurricane science to be established in the Survey's Florida lab. This latter effort should be included in the future as a part of the multi-hazards science initiative.

The Committee has restored fully the mineral resources program, including \$18,443,000 for research and assessments and \$4,500,000 for minerals information. The Committee strongly disagrees with the proposed reduction in the Survey's mineral resources program. Minerals and mineral products are important to the U.S. economy. Mineral commodities adding billions of dollars to the economy. Mineral commodities are essential to both national security and infrastructure development. Mineral resources research and investments are a core responsibility of the Survey. The Committee does not agree that objective data on mineral commodities can be generated in the private sector and the Committee importunes the Administration to not propose this program elimination again. The recommendation includes all requested funds for the new multi-hazards demonstration initiative. This includes funding in this activity as well as all the other activities within the Survey's budget.

Water Resources Investigations.—The Committee recommends \$213,791,000 for water resources investigations.

the budget request and \$2,027,000 above the fiscal year 2006 enacted level. The recommendation includes the requested increase of \$2,325,000 for the National streamflow information system. The recommendation also restores: (1) the technical support activities of the National water-quality assessment to the previous funding level (an increase of \$940,000 above the request); (2) the Hood Canal, WA, water study (\$100,000); (3) the Upper San Pedro River partnership, AZ (\$300,000); (4) cooperative water program interpretive studies (\$2,000,000); and (5) State water research institutes (\$6,404,000).

Biological Research.—The Committee recommends \$175,597,000 for biological research, \$3,000,000 above the budget request and \$723,000 above the fiscal year 2006 enacted level. The recommendation includes the requested increase of \$1,000,000 for the NatureServe program. The recommendation also partially restores three requested program reductions; this includes \$350,000 above the request for the Pacific northwest forest program, \$300,000 for the ivory-billed woodpecker research, and \$1,000,000 for the national biological information infrastructure. The recommendation also includes an increase of \$200,000 for the science excellence program in cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service, \$150,000 for the anadromous fish research lab Connecticut River watershed project, MA, and an increase of \$1,000,000 for the Great Lakes Science Center operations.

The Committee urges the Survey to try to implement the Chesapeake Bay science plan, including the assessment of nutrient and sediment reduction strategies in the watershed, identifying sediment sources to improve implementation of sediment reduction practices, and assessing the causes for fish health problems in the Potomac Basin.

Enterprise Information.—The Committee recommends \$113,730,000 for enterprise information, \$2,500,000 above the budget request, and \$67,336,000 above the fiscal year 2006 enacted level. The change from the enacted is largely due to the transfer of funds from the former cooperative topographic mapping program within the mapping, remote sensing and geographic investigations activity to the Federal geographic data coordination subactivity. The change to the budget request includes \$500,000 above the request to offset half of the operational efficiencies claimed in the request and \$2,000,000 to improve the Nation's geospatial data program and the geospatial one-stop (GOS) program by expanding the operational architecture of the GOS and integrating additional bureau and Federal mapping enterprises in the GOS.

Science Support.—The Committee recommends \$72,382,000 for science support, \$5,000,000 above the budget request and \$3,080,000 above the fiscal year 2006 enacted level. The increase above the request is to make up for past fixed costs which have had to be absorbed by the Survey.

Facilities.—The Committee recommends \$95,472,000 for facilities, as requested, a \$690,000 increase to the fiscal year 2006 enacted level.

MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) is responsible for collecting, distributing, accounting and auditing revenues from min-

eral leases on Federal and Indian lands. In fiscal year 2007, MMS expects to collect and distribute about \$14.0 billion from active Federal and Indian leases. The MMS also manages the offshore energy and mineral resources on the Nation's outer continental shelf (OCS). To date, the OCS program has been focused primarily on oil and gas leasing. Over the past several years, MMS has been exploring the possible development of other marine mineral resources, especially sand and gravel. With the passage of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, MMS assumed increased responsibility for oil spill research, including the promotion of increased oil spill response capabilities, and for oil spill financial responsibility certifications of offshore platforms and pipelines. Under the Energy Policy Act of 2005, MMS has new responsibilities over Federal offshore renewable energy and related uses of America's offshore public lands.

ROYALTY AND OFFSHORE MINERALS MANAGEMENT

Appropriation enacted, 2006	\$167,391,000
Budget estimate, 2007	156,651,000
Recommended, 2007	157,496,000
Comparison:	
Appropriation, 2006	-9,895,000
Budget estimate, 2007	+845,000

The amounts recommended by the Committee compared with the budget estimates by activity are shown in the following table: