BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS

The United States Department of the Interior

and Performance Information
Fiscal Year 2016

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

Natural Resource Damage Assessment & Restoration Program

Restoration Program

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Justifications

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NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND RESTORATION PROGRAM

GENERAL STATEMENT

FY 2016 Budget Request:

The Restoration Program's Fiscal Year 2016 request for current appropriations is $9,236,000, an increase of $1,469,000 over the 2015 enacted level of $7,767,000. The request builds upon the Restoration Support increase Congress provided in Fiscal Year 2015, calling for further increases to expand on-the-ground restoration in order to implement a growing number of settlements. The 2016 request will also provide a modest increase in funding for training and to develop contingency plans that are required to respond to inland oil spills. With the requested increase, staff will be added to the Program's Restoration Support Unit and allocated to bureaus to accelerate restoration activities.

Over the last five years, the DOI Restoration Fund has received an average of over $122 million each year in restoration settlements and advanced or reimbursed cooperative damage assessment funds. The vast majority of these restoration settlements are shared jointly with other Federal, State, and tribal co-trustees, and as such, the Department cannot use them unilaterally. A number of long-running damage assessments cases have recently settled, and numerous others are currently in settlement negotiations. This continuing influx of settlement funds is expected to continue as additional cases settle, and thus requires that the Restoration Program (along with involved DOI bureaus) examine and strengthen its program infrastructure and staffing on a Department-wide basis, to best position the Program to facilitate the application of increasing restoration settlement funds. Additionally, resolution of one of the larger cases—the Deepwater Horizon oil spill litigation—is expected to significantly increase restoration funds and the Program's services provided to Departmental case teams.

The potential benefits associated with this budget request are significant, for both injured natural resources and for the American public's use and enjoyment of these resources. This request will allow DOI—with nearly a half billion dollars in settlement funds currently residing in the DOI Restoration Fund and more settlements on the horizon—to deliberately and strategically advance the planning and implementation of restoration actions at dozens of sites nationwide, producing tangible benefits, both ecologically and economically.

Total 2016 Budget Request

(Dollars in Thousands)

Budget Authority	2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Budget Request
Current	6,263	7,767	9,236
Mandatory	59,208	144,138	94,438
TOTAL	**65,471**	**151,905**	**103,674**
FTE	*9*	*14*	19

Fiscal Year 2016 fixed costs of $63,000 are fully funded at the request level.

In addition, the request includes an estimate of $100 million in permanent funds for DOI 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 an 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 566 federally-recognized tribal governments to help protect water, natural resources and land rights.

The **Bureau of Land Management** administers 247 million acres of Federal land and an additional 700 million acres of onshore Federal mineral estate, 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 17 States west of the Mississippi River, the **Bureau of Reclamation** manages 476 dams and 337 reservoirs covering more than 6.6 million acres associated with irrigation 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 562 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 over 2,000 threatened and endangered species.

The **National Park Service** preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the 84 million acres of land and 4.5 million acres of oceans, lakes, and reservoirs of the 405 units of the national park system, and conserves the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife of these special places 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) conducts scientific research in ecosystems, climate and land use change, environmental health and water resources, and provides access to natural resource science to support effective decision making on how to best restore injured natural resources impacted by the release of oil or hazardous substances in the environment.

The DOI Office of the Secretary and the Office of the Solicitor also play key roles in making the Restoration Program a fully integrated Departmental program. The Office of the Solicitor provides legal advice, 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 spills or chemical releases.

The Department, through its bureaus, conducts every damage assessment and restoration case in partnership with co-trustees at various levels (Federal, State, and tribal), 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.

President's Management Agenda

The Department of the Interior supports the President's Management Agenda to build a better government, one that delivers continually improving results for the American people and renews their faith in government. The Office of Restoration and Damage Assessment is actively involved in the government-wide effort to bring forward the most promising ideas to improve government effectiveness, efficiency, spur economic growth, and promote people and culture. The Office of Restoration and Damage Assessment supports achievement of the President's Management Agenda objectives in these four pillars as described below:

The Program continually seeks improvements that will enhance the Department's effectiveness and efficiency of implementing settlements. The Program will develop a strategic plan to drive that improvement, which will be informed by recommendations provided in a detailed programmatic evaluation and analysis. The analysis helped identify staffing constraints and process challenges in the course of achieving restoration in coordination with our co-trustee partners. The strategic plan will help streamline and enhance Restoration Program activities to facilitate realization of ecological and economic benefits sooner.

Overview

The FY 2016 budget request for the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program totals $9,236,000, an increase of $1,469,000 over the 2015 enacted level. The requested increase supports the following program initiatives:

1. Restoration Support (+$1.5 million and +8 FTE [5 direct / 3 allocation]), is focused at providing additional staff and program capacity to increase the implementation of restoration activities across the country, and to ensure the effective utilization of restoration settlement funds. An increase in the number of dedicated program staff in ORDA and in the bureaus focused exclusively on implementing restoration will result in marked increases in the amount of acres and stream/shoreline miles being restored, along with attendant ecological and economic benefits for the American public.

2. Inland Oil Spill Preparedness (+$100,000), will allow the Department to continue to develop the tools and contingency plans necessary to deal with inland oil spills. Conventional energy resources will continue to be important components as the Department moves forward in implementing the Department's *Powering Our Future and Responsible Use of the Nation's Resources* initiative. Domestic oil and gas production and transportation are likely to continue at high, and potentially increasing, levels. New forms of transportation entering into the industry (e.g., tank cars on high-speed rail and pipelines carrying tar sands/bitumen oil) pose new risks and challenges to spill planners and responders.

Secretarial Initiatives

America's Great Outdoors (AGO)

America's Great Outdoors fosters the intrinsic link between healthy economies and healthy landscapes to increase tourism and outdoor recreation in balance with preservation and conservation. This initiative features collaborative and community-driven efforts and outcome-focused investments that preserve and enhance rural landscapes, urban parks and rivers, important ecosystems, cultural resources, and wildlife habitat. These activities incorporate the best available science, a landscape-level understanding, and stakeholder input to identify and share conservation priorities, and to help connect Americans to the great outdoors.

The AGO initiative seeks to empower all Americans to share in the responsibility to conserve, restore, and provide better access to our lands and waters in order to leave a healthy, vibrant outdoor legacy for generations to come. Funding for the initiative is broadly defined to capture programs that are key to attaining conservation goals. That includes funding to operate and maintain our public lands; expand and improve recreational opportunities at the State and local

level; protect cultural resources; and conserve and restore land, water, and native species through ecosystem resiliency projects.

The Restoration Program has no discretionary appropriated funds that specifically tie to the AGO initiative. However, many of the projects, funded with permanent funds, accomplish resource and recreational objectives that are consistent with the spirit and intent of the AGO initiative. A large percentage of DOI and its Federal, State, and tribal co-trustee partners' restoration actions and accomplishments are jointly accomplished using settlement funds recovered through the Restoration Program, often involve non-governmental conservation organizations, and are targeted toward the restoration, acquisition, or protection of public lands, creation of recreational opportunities, and the restoration of landscapes and trust species.

Building a 21st Century Department of the Interior

The President's administration continues to challenge Federal agencies to make the Nation's government more effective, to deliver more to the American taxpayers, and to manage Federal resources more responsibly. The Department is actively engaged in supporting this agenda. The Restoration Program continues to meet the challenge of the *Campaign to Cut Waste*, which in 2016 maintains a focus on Federal travel and relocation costs, strategic sourcing, and IT consolidation. Through the end of 2014, the Restoration Program and its components across the Department had met its *Campaign to Cut Waste* target goals. The Program's continued and expanded use of SharePoint collaboration tools and video conferencing when possible will continue to allow the program to minimize its travel costs in 2015 and 2016. The Program Office also follows the lead of the Office of the Secretary in other cost-cutting and efficiency efforts, such as information technology transformation, space consolidation, and strategic sourcing.

Performance Summary

All activities within the Restoration Program (damage assessment, restoration support, in-land oil spill preparedness, 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: Celebrating and Enhancing America's Great Outdoors / Goal No. 1 to Protect America's Landscapes and Goal No. 2 Protect America's Cultural and Heritage Resources As is also the case with the Department'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; improve 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 Mission Area 2 - Strengthening Tribal Nations and Insular Communities by working government to government as equal partners to restore injured 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.

2016 Program Performance

In 2016, the Program expects to see measurable increases in the amount of restoration being achieved, notably through the Program's performance indicators of acres restored and stream / shoreline miles restored. A lesser, secondary measure tracking the movement of settlement funds transferred out of the Restoration Fund to DOI bureaus and involved co-trustees will also be monitored. These increases will result from the additional Restoration Support staff and resources contained in the 2016 budget request. The addition of new dedicated staff focused on supporting on-the-ground restoration will pay benefits within the first year.

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.

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 implemented is unique, from the resource injury being addressed, to the ecological, biological, and engineering aspects involved, and the number and roles of other involved co-trustees, 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.

Mission Area 1: Provide natural and cultural resource protection and experiences

Goal #1: Protect America's Landscapes

Strategic Objective Metrics Strategic Plan Measure / Efficiency or other Bureau-specific Measure	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Plan	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Pres. Budget Request	Change from 2015 Enacted to 2016	Long Term 2018 Target
Strategy #1: Improve land and water health by restoring wetlands and uplands that support trust natural resources that have been injured by oil spills or releases of hazardous substances										
Number of acres restored or enhanced to achieve desired habitat conditions to support trust species conservation	68,834	87,709	97,813	18,750	122,360	45,027	100,000	68,000	-32,000	100,000
Comments: Year to year variability is expected based on variability of timing of restoration actions and settlement amounts.										
Note: In early 2014, a ten-year conservation easement on a very large parcel of land in Alaska (approx. 57,000 acres) was unexpectedly terminated, which reduced the 2014 Actuals and will similarly affect achieving the 2015 Plan target.										
Contributing Programs: NRDAR, FWS Environmental Contaminants, NPS, BIA, BLM, BOR, USGS, SOL, OS/Policy Analysis, other Federal, State, and tribal co-trustees										
Strategy #2: Improve land and water health by restoring riparian, stream, ans shoreline areas that support trust natural resources that have been injured by oil spills or releases of hazardous substances										
Number of stream or shoreline miles restored or enhanced to achieve desired habitat conditions to support trust species conservation	377	401	409	165	332	423	250	350	+100	500
Comments: Year to year variability is expected based on variability of timing of restoration actions and settlement amounts.										
Contributing Programs: NRDAR, FWS Environmental Contaminants, NPS, BIA, BLM, BOR, USGS, SOL, OS/Policy Analysis, other Federal, State, and tribal co-trustees										

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 DOI Office of Restoration and Damage Assessment (ORDA) manages the Restoration Program, and currently consists of fourteen (14) direct FTE. They include the Office Director and thirteen staff: the Deputy Office Director for Restoration, Assistant Office Director for Operations, Budget Officer/Restoration Fund Manager, and four operations staff located in its Washington, DC headquarters, as well as six staff Restoration Support specialists located in Denver, Colorado. The following organization chart goes beyond the modest number of staff in the Program Management Office and 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 the Office of Policy Analysis within the Office of the Secretary.

The Office of Restoration and Damage Assessment 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

(Dollars in Thousands)

Appropriation: Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Fund

Comparison by Activity / Subactivity

Activity	2014 Actual FTE	2014 Actual Amount	2015 Enacted FTE	2015 Enacted Amount	Fixed Costs (+/-) FTE	Fixed Costs (+/-) Amount	Program Changes (+/-) FTE	Program Changes (+/-) Amount	2016 Budget Request FTE	2016 Budget Request Amount	Inc. (+)/ Dec(-) from 2015 Enacted FTE	Inc. (+)/ Dec(-) from 2015 Enacted Amount
APPROPRIATED FUNDS												
Damage Assessments	*0*	*3,157*	0	2,500	0	+11	0	-448	0	2,063	0	-437
Restoration Support	*3*	*1,171*	6	2,075	0	+11	+5	+1,521	11	3,607	+5	+1,532
Inland Oil Spill Preparedness	*0*	*0*	1	1,000	0	0	0	+100	1	1,100	+0	+100
Program Management	*7*	*1,935*	7	2,192	0	+41	0	+233	7	2,466	0	+274
Total, Appropriation	***10***	***6,263***	**14**	**7,767**	**0**	**+63**	**+5**	**+1,406**	**19**	**9,236**	**+5**	**+1,469**
PERMANENT FUNDS (RECEIPTS)												
Damage Assessments		*21,362*		18,900		0		0		18,900	0	0
Restoration												
[Prince William Sound Restoration]		*5,488*		6,000		0		0		6,000	0	0
[Other Restoration]		*36,192*		125,000		0		-50,000		75,000	0	-50,000
Program Management		*31*		100		0		0		100	0	0
Subtotal, Gross Receipts	***0***	**63,073**	**0**	**150,000**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**-50,000**	**0**	**100,000**	**0**	**-50,000**
Sequestration Reduction		**-576**		**-438**		**0**		**0**		**0**		**438**
Previously Unavailable Budget Authority		**+204**		**+576**		**0**		**0**		**+438**		**-138**
Transfers Out		**-3,493**		**-6,000**		**0**		**0**		**-6,000**		**0**
Total, Net Receipts		**59,208**		**144,138**		**0**		**-50,000**		**94,438**		**-49,700**

Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program

Justification of Fixed Costs and Internal Realignments

(Dollars In Thousands)

Fixed Cost Changes and Projections	CY (2015) Total	CY (2015) to BY (2016) Change
Change in Number of Paid Days	-	+19
This column reflects changes in pay associated with the change in the number of paid days between the CY (2015) and BY (2016).		
Pay Raise	-	+59
The change reflects the salary impact of programmed pay raise increases.		
Employer Contributions to FERS	322	+2
The change reflects the directed increase of 0.5% in employer's contributions to the Federal Employee Retirement System.		
Departmental Working Capital Fund	96	-17
The change reflects expected changes in the charges for centrally billed Department services and other services through the Working Capital Fund. These charges are displayed in the Budget Justification for Department Management.		
Rental Payments	106	+0
The adjustment is for changes in the costs payable to the General Services Administration (GSA) and others resulting from changes in rates for office and non-office space as estimated by GSA, as well as the rental costs of other currently occupied space. These costs include building security; in the case of GSA space, these are paid to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Costs of mandatory office relocation, i.e. relocations in cases where due to external events there is no alternative but to vacate the currently occupied space, are also included.		

Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program

Appropriations Language

NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT FUND

To conduct natural resource damage assessment, restoration activities, and onshore oil spill preparedness by the Department of the Interior necessary to carry out the provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.), the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (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 (16 U.S.C. 19jj et seq.), [$7,767,000] *$9,236,000*, to remain available until expended. *(Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015.)*

Authorizing Statutes:

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.

National Park System Resource Protection Act (P.L. 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). Provides permanent authorization for 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.

ACTIVITY: DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

Appropriation: Natural Resource Damage Assessment		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	Fixed Costs	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Request
Activity: Damage Assessment	$000	3,157	2,500	+11	0	-448	2,063
	FTE	0	0	0	0	0	0

Spill response workers check booms and use sorbent pads during clean-up activities at the March 2014 Texas City Y oil spill on Galveston Island, Texas (FWS photo)

Justification of 2016 Program Change:

Damage Assessment (-$448,000 / 0 FTE) – The 2016 budget request for the Damage Assessments activity is $2,063,000, a reduction of $448,000 from the 2015 enacted level. The reduction is proposed in order to focus limited appropriated funding on achieving a greater amount of restoration project completions in the Restoration Support activity. The decrease to the Damage Assessment activity will be offset with funds recovered (previously-funded damage assessment costs) from settled cases deposited into the program's permanent account. A number

of recent settlements in previously-funded damage assessment cases has resulted in the recovery of an adequate volume of past assessment costs that will be used to offset the proposed 2016 reduction, and to fund selected damage assessment cases going forward, in lieu of discretionary appropriated damage assessment funds. The Restoration Program's overall capacity to conduct damage assessment activities will not be diminished, but will remain level with 2015 activity.

Activity Overview:

Damage assessment activities are the critical first step taken by the Department on the long journey to achieving restoration of natural resources injured through the release of oil or other hazardous substances. The source and magnitude of injury must first be identified, investigated, and thoroughly understood if the subsequent restoration is to be effective. Through the damage assessment process, physical and scientific evidence of natural resource injury is documented, which then forms the basis for the Department's claim for appropriate compensation (or in-kind services) to compensate the American public for the loss and use of those injured resources. The resulting restoration settlements allow the Restoration Program to then restore those injured trust resources, in concert with other affected natural resource trustee agencies. Damage assessment activities support the Department's performance outcome goals of protecting the nation's natural and cultural resources. Information regarding the nature, pathway, and magnitude of the injury, and the means by which they are determined, also help establish the focus of the subsequent 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; National Park Service; Bureau of Land Management; Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Bureau of Reclamation). All FTE involved in supporting this activity are allocation FTE, located in the Department's bureaus. There are no direct FTE within the Program Office. 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 cooperation, consultation and collaboration amongst the trustees 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 duplication of effort and minimize administrative burdens and expenses. Responsible parties also benefit, as they are able to address all trustee concerns in a single, unified case.

Cooperative Assessment - 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 Departmental practice, potentially responsible parties are contacted and invited to

participate in the development of assessment and restoration plans. The Department has been involved in forty-nine cooperative assessments across the Nation, 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 advance funds or reimburse Interior for its assessment activities prior to settlement. In Fiscal Year 2014, over $21 million in advanced and/or reimbursed cooperative assessment funding was received from cooperating responsible parties for DOI's assessment activities at twenty-two sites, including $16.8 million from BP or the U.S. Coast Guard related to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico. This constant effort to use cooperative Funding and Participation Agreements with responsible parties to the greatest extent possible allows the Department to stretch its discretionary appropriated and recovered assessment funds further, thus funding additional cases it might not otherwise fund.

Oiled beachline at Texas City Y Oil Spill, Galveston, Texas (FWS photo)

Project Selection - 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. Significant consideration is given to those damage assessment cases that have the potential to address and support Administration or Secretarial priorities and initiatives, such as *America's Great Outdoors.* Criteria 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, strong 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.

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

Use of Cost and Performance Data - Once projects are funded, the Restoration Program makes use of project-level performance information to inform and guide future funding decisions. The Restoration Program relies on performance data collected from ongoing cases that document the attainment of specific chronological milestones (trustee MOU, assessment plan development, injury determination and quantification, preliminary estimate of damages, etc.) in the multi-year process toward settlement. Funding decisions were weighted in favor of those cases that continue to show progress along the damage assessment continuum towards settlement and eventual restoration. Cases that may stall or fail to progress are considered a lesser priority, and are given direction to make course corrections at a stable or reduced funding level. Course corrections must be made before additional funding is made available for addressing future milestones. For example, a case team may be directed to finalize necessary procedural products such as a publicly-announced assessment plan before beginning its scientific studies. The use of such project-level performance data lends itself to helping the Restoration Program better manage its workload by having a clearer sense of when damage assessment cases are near completion and opportunities for new starts emerge.

In addition to project milestone reporting, financial obligation data is monitored at the aggregate (DOI), bureau, and project levels across all involved bureaus. This obligation data and carryover balances are factors considered in the annual project 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 identified, 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 (2013 – 2015), the Program has utilized an average of $2.2 million annually in damage assessment funds recovered in settlement, in combination

with its annual discretionary appropriations in order to continue ongoing damage assessment work at current sites or to initiate new cases.

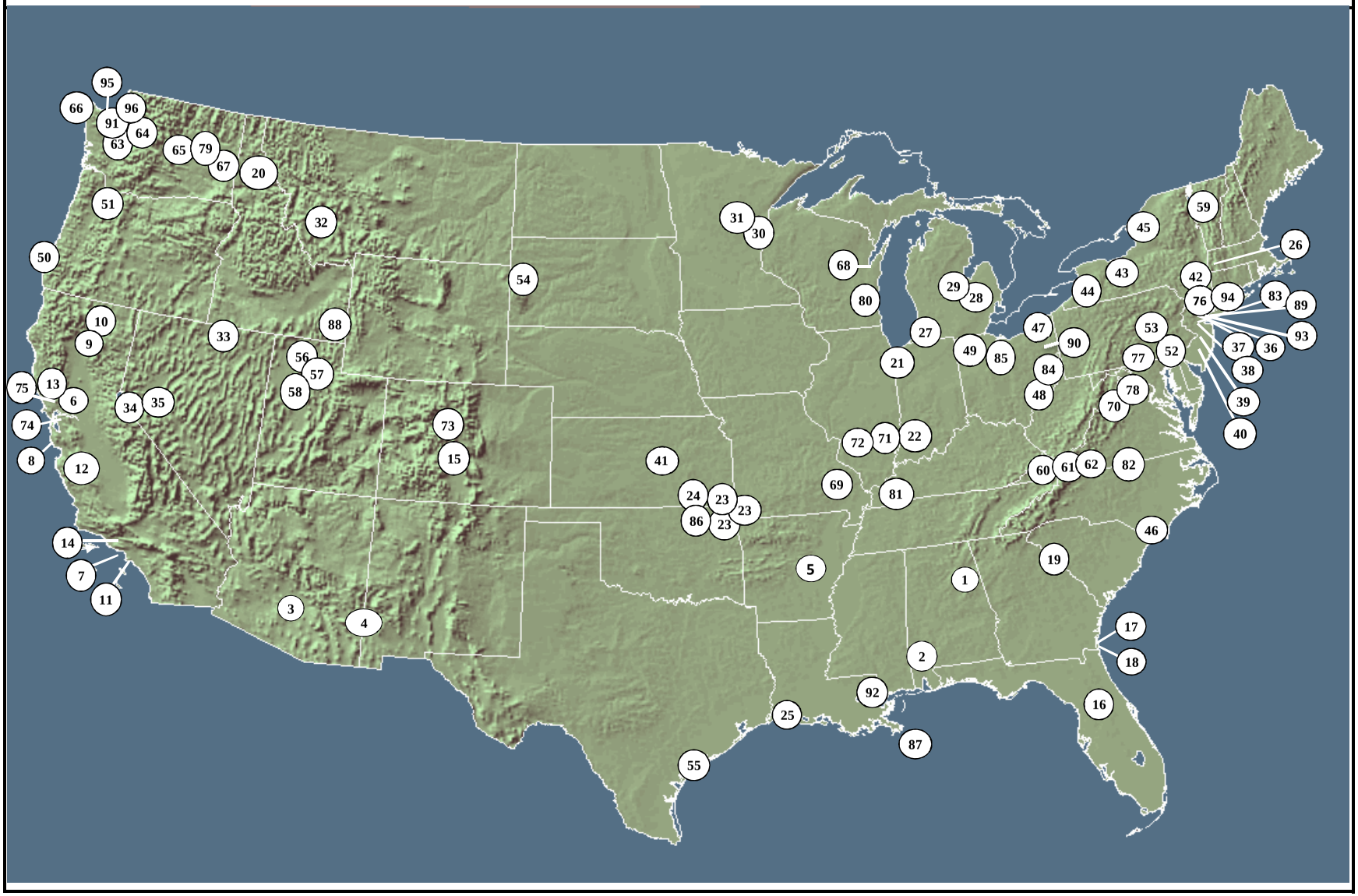
2016 Activity Performance

In 2016, the program will continue to utilize a mix of discretionary appropriations, recovered past assessment costs from recent settlements and/or returned funds from completed assessments, as well as advanced funds from cooperative responsible parties to meet its damage assessment workload requirements. The combined appropriated and recovered funds will support new or ongoing damage assessment efforts at approximately 35-40 sites, maintaining the program's damage assessment capability at current levels. Additional ongoing cases will continue on as well, using previously allocated funds from prior years. This level of funding will support new feasibility studies, initiation of assessments at new sites where warranted, as well as providing continued funding for ongoing cases towards completion and settlement. In most years, the program anticipates that the annual project proposals received from the field will exceed the amount of available funding, thus leading the program to carefully scrutinize, select, and fund those cases best focused on Administration and Secretarial priorities, and best organized and prepared to advance towards settlement. The program will also continue its focus on the use of cooperative assessments, and pursue advance funding agreements with potentially responsible parties wherever and whenever possible. Money provided under these funding agreements will expand program coverage by allowing other damage assessment cases to utilize the appropriated and recovered/returned assessment funds. In addition, the program will continue to refine its milestone reporting process and use that performance data to enhance management of its damage assessment workload. Lastly, the Program shall continue its efforts to work closely with other trustee partners to jointly identify future workload, those new sites and incidents requiring an assessment of natural resource injury.

The Program's current damage assessment project caseload through 2015 totals 61 ongoing cases (including feasibility studies), and are among those depicted on the map and table on the following pages.

Damage Assessment and Restoration Sites

Funded by the Department of the Interior Restoration Fund



Alabama
1. Anniston PCBs
2. CIBA - McIntosh NPL Site

Arizona
3. Cyprus Tohono Mine
4. Phelps-Dodge Mine Complex

Arkansas
5. Vertac/Bayou Meto

California
6. Almaden Quicksilver
7. American Trader Oil Spill
8. APEX Houston Oil Spill
9. Cantara Loop Chemical Spill
10. Iron Mountain Mine
11. Montrose Chemical
12. New Idria Mine
13. Abbott & Turkey Run Mines
14. Santa Clara River Oil Spill
74. Stege Marsh
75. Turkey Run Mine

Colorado
15. Upper Arkansas River
73. French Gulch Mines

Florida
16. Lake Apopka - North Shore

Georgia
17. LCP Chemical
18. Terry Creek
19. Lake Hartwell PCBs

Idaho
20. Coeur d'Alene Mine (Bunker Hill Mining District)
88. Southeast Idaho Phosphates Sites

Illinois
71. Former Indian Refinery
72. Sauget Area Dump Sites

Indiana
21. Grand Calumet River
22. Viacom / Westinghouse PCBs

Kansas
23. Tri-State Mining District - Cherokee County
24. Eastern Kansas Smelters
41. Tri-County Airport NPL Site

Kentucky
81. B.F. Goodrich- Airco Site

Louisiana
25. Calcasieu Estuary
87. *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill, LA (also AL, MS, FL, & TX)

Massachusetts
26. Housatonic River

Michigan
27. Kalamazoo River
28. Saginaw River and Bay
29. Tittabawassee River

Minnesota
30. St. Louis River
31. St. Regis Paper

Missouri
23. Tri-State Mining District - - Jasper County
69. S.E. Missouri Lead Mining Sites

Montana
32. Grant-Kohrs Ranch (Clark Fork River)

Nevada
33. Rio Tinto Mine
34. Leviathan Mine
35. Yerington Anaconda Mine

New Jersey
36. Diamond Alkali
37. Great Swamp NWR
38. Berry's Creek Watershed
39. GAF / ISP-ESI Facility
40. U.S. Avenue Burn
83. Rolling Knolls Landfill
93. DuPont/Pompton Lakes Site

New Mexico
4. Phelps-Dodge Mine Complex

New York
42. Hudson River PCBs
43. Onondaga Lake NPL Site
44. Niagara River/Buffalo River
45. St. Lawrence Environment
76. Richardson Hill Road Landfill
89. Newtown Creek NPL Site
94. Gowanus Canal NPL Site, NY

North Carolina
46. LCP - HoltraChem NPL Site
82. Dan River Coal Ash Spill

Ohio
47. Ashtabula River
48. Ohio River
49. Ottawa River
84. Dover Chemical Site
85. Duck & Otter Creeks
90. Nease Chemical

Oklahoma
23. Tri-State Mining District - Tar Creek
86. National Zinc NPL Site

Oregon
50. M/V New Carissa Oil Spill
51. Portland Harbor NPL Site

Pennsylvania
52. Paoli Railyard
53. Palmerton Zinc
77. Lower Darby Creek

South Dakota
54. Whitewood Creek

Texas
55. Lavaca Bay

Utah
56. Jordan River
57. Kennecott Copper-North End
58. Richardson Flats / Silver Creek

Vermont
59. Pine Street Canal

Virginia
60. CERTUS - Clinch River Spill
61. Lone Mountain Coal Slurry
62. Saltville Disposal NPL Site
70. DuPont - Waynesboro Facility
78. AVTEX Fibers Superfund Site
82. Dan River Coal Ash Spill

Washington
63. Commencement Bay
64. Elliott Bay
65. Holden Mine
66. Tenyo Maru Oil Spill
67. Midnite Mine
79. Upper Columbia River / Lake Roosevelt
91. Quendall Terminals Site
95. Port Angeles Harbor
96. Bellingham Bay

Wisconsin
68. Fox River / Green Bay
80. Sheboygan River

Feasibility Studies	Damage Assessment in Progress	Case Settled - Restoration	Restoration Actions	Tribal Involvement

ACTIVITY: RESTORATION SUPPORT

Appropriation: Natural Resource Damage Assessment	2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	Fixed Costs	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Request
Activity: Restoration Support $000	1,171	2,075	+11	0	+1,521	3,607
Direct FTE	3	6	0	0	+5	11
Allocation FTE	0	0	0	0	+3	3

Justification of 2016 Program Changes:

Restoration Support (+$1,521,000/+8 FTE) - The 2016 budget request for Restoration Support is $3,607,000 and 11 direct FTE, a program increase of $1,521,000 and 8 FTE (5 direct /3 allocation) from the 2015 enacted level. The requested increase for Restoration Support in 2016 will enable the Department to implement an anticipated expansion of restoration actions to include planning, execution, and oversight of additional restoration actions. While bureau-staffed case teams can and do use settlement funds to implement on-the-ground restoration projects, there is a lack of dedicated restoration support personnel that are often necessary to successfully plan and implement restoration actions. In addition, smaller restoration settlements are not sufficient to support both the completion of the restoration and staff time necessary to plan and implement these projects. In any given settlement, the parties responsible for the spill or release of hazardous substances into the environment are responsible for restoring injured natural resources for that specific site. However, responsible parties are not required to maintain the necessary cadre of restoration specialists needed to successfully staff and support a wide range of restoration support activities across the Nation.

The DOI Restoration Fund maintains a balance of funds recovered in legal settlements of completed damage assessment cases. In 2014, approximately $63M was deposited into the fund while at the same time $57M was withdrawn, of which $33M was used for restoration. A number of long-running damage assessment cases have recently settled, many with multi-million dollar settlements. Still others are in settlement negotiations and are expected to settle in the next few years, including anticipated additional funds for ecological restoration from RESTORE Act activities and from natural resource damage assessment activities relating to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. At the end of 2014, the balance in the Restoration Fund was slightly under $500M, and several recent settlements in early 2015 have increased the current balance to $575M.

Despite significant gains in the completion of restoration projects, the Department's current Restoration Program infrastructure and restoration-focused staffing has not been able to

implement restoration efforts on pace with the dramatic growth in settlement funds. Additional staffing is needed to increase the implementation pace of settlement-funded restoration, leading to the realization of ecological benefits sooner for impacted areas.

Working with our restoration partners, the Department has identified specific skill sets or partnerships that are essential to move additional restoration projects to completion. With the requested increase, the Department will use the requested increase to supplement three programs as follows:

- **Restoration Specialists (+4 FTE)** - These FTE will be housed at the Department's Restoration Support Unit (RSU) and offer the necessary skill sets and specialized expertise to provide support on difficult or challenging restoration plans or projects. Examples of the skill sets that may be added to the RSU are a hydro-geologist, restoration ecologist, or landscape planner. These skills sets are not widely available to case teams, and field practitioners have identified this shortage as an impediment to timely restoration.

- **Tribal Restoration Specialist (+1 FTE)** One RSU-based FTE will be dedicated to tribal restoration issues, and will coordinate with tribes, tribal representatives and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to focus on the unique and often challenging aspects of restoring injured cultural resources. This support could involve planning to restore the use of ancestral lands, plants, and animals for shelter, subsistence, medicinal, or ceremonial purposes. These projects become even more challenging when the clean-up does not allow for on-site restoration. Once tribal restoration options are developed and vetted, this FTE will support restoration training, development of tribal work-force initiatives, and restoration implementation.

- **Fish and Wildlife Service Restoration Staff (+3 FTE)** - The requested increase will fully fund three dedicated NRDA restoration staff placed within the FWS to support restoration projects. These allocation FTE will be assigned to three geographic areas (Western, Central - incl. Great Lakes area, and Eastern United States) and will work with and coordinate with the staff at the RSU to write restoration plans or assist with the development of other case documents, implement restoration projects, and track and monitor restoration progress and success. With the addition of these restoration-focused positions, the FWS will expand its capacity to plan, implement, and monitor restoration. Further, the skill sets for this FTE would reflect the training, expertise, and experience necessary for the cooperative nature of restoration, which differs from the skill set suited for the often adversarial setting of damage assessments and NRDA claim resolution.

- **Increase Partnerships** - The additional discretionary funding will catalyze the expenditure of settlement funds building on existing partnerships and through the development of new or novel agreements. The RSU will continue to work with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to implement restoration science advances. In addition, the Program Office will look to develop new relationships with other DOI restoration programs, such as the FWS Partners and Coastal Programs, to assist with restoration implementation, or to develop new agreements with co-trustees, NGOs, or academia to support all facets of restoration and to look beyond the case-specific scope of the settlement funds recovered from the Responsible Parties.

The potential benefits associated with this budget request are significant, for both injured natural resources and the American public. With nearly a half billion dollars in settlement funds currently residing in the DOI Restoration Fund, and more settlements expected, moving forward deliberately and strategically in the implementation of restoration actions at dozens of sites nationwide will produce benefits, both ecologically and economically.

Activity Overview:

The restoration of injured natural resources is the sole reason for the existence of the Department's natural resource damage assessment and restoration program. Every action the Restoration Program undertakes is done with the end goal of restoration in mind. Upon the successful conclusion of a natural resource injury assessment and upon achieving settlement with the responsible parties, DOI bureaus working in partnership with other affected State, Federal, tribal and/or foreign co-trustees, use settlement funds to identify, plan, and implement restoration activities. Under the Restoration Support 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 restoration plans. The program's RSU staff, upon request, provides support to the Department's case managers/teams, as well as assistance with meeting various legal and regulatory compliance requirements (such as National Environmental Policy Act compliance), 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 and impacts of restoration efforts.

In meeting the statutory and regulatory requirements of CERCLA and the Oil Pollution Act 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 focus restoration actions which often support and contribute to the *Celebrating and Enhancing America's Great Outdoors*

initiative through ecological restoration, land acquisition, and/or protection. Some restoration projects also provide indirect support to the Secretary's *Strengthening Tribal Nations* initiative via Tribal co-trustee interactions and restoration projects benefitting tribal communities. In addition, many projects 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 and trails; protection and reintroduction of threatened and endangered species to support recovery efforts; and protection and restoration of essential habitat for migratory birds and fish.

The DOI Restoration Program uses both current appropriations along with permanent funding to achieve its restoration program mission needs as follows:

- **Current Funding** – Current funds (Restoration Support activity) are used to support the existing RSU staff, and to support ecological restoration science research conducted by USGS.
- **Permanent Funding** – Consists of all incoming settlement funds paid by responsible parties. Nearly ninety percent of all such funds received from settled damage assessment cases currently in the DOI Restoration Fund are designated as joint restoration funds, and are accepted, held, and managed on behalf of DOI and its co-trustee partners. These funds can be used only for the Trustee's restoration planning, implementation (including land acquisition), oversight, and monitoring of implemented restoration actions at a specific site or related to a specific settlement. These restoration activities can proceed only after the development and issuance of a publicly-reviewed restoration plan and in some instances, may take 10-15 years to fully implement. The use of such settlement funds provides real value to the American public, as injured natural resources and services are restored by, or at the expense of the responsible party, and not the taxpaying public.

Other Available Restoration Resources
(Dollars in $000)

	2015	2016
Settlement funds currently held in DOI Restoration Fund (estimate)	$496,042	$580,000
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

actions (in-kind restoration), with trustee agencies providing oversight to ensure compliance with the terms of the settlement and adherence to the approved and publicly-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 met the goals and intent of the restoration plans.

All restoration activities are focused on restoring those resources and the services they provide back to the baseline level they would have had in the absence of the spill or release of hazardous substances. This encompasses preserving and maintaining the lands, waters, and wildlife of the Nation's public lands, including wildlife refuges and national parks as well as recovering trust resources that are on private or tribal lands. Results are achieved through DOI-administered programs and through partnership efforts and in collaboration with others in and out of government. These efforts are as widely varied as the trust resources the Department manages. Examples of these activities include:

- Restoration of nesting habitat for migratory birds;
- Re-introduction and re-establishment of threatened or endangered species;
- Acquisition of property that is added to the National Wildlife Refuge System or the lands managed by State, tribal, or local governments;
- In-stream and riparian habitat improvement to improve aquatic communities, fisheries, or fish passage;
- Control or removal of invasive species of plants and animals and re-establishment of native flora and fauna, and
- Providing recreational opportunities or protecting cultural uses and activities that flow from trust resources.

2016 Activity Performance:

A restoration-focused Program Review that was completed in early 2015 recommended several actions that could be implemented to increase our restoration effectiveness. These factors included enhancing the capacity of the program, training, and coordination with other offices and programs. These recommendations can be met through the continued strengthening of the RSU, hiring additional dedicated restoration staff in DOI bureaus, and by leveraging the capabilities of other programs that conduct restoration.

In 2016, the Program will continue to focus its activities in support of trust resource restoration, and will through additional restoration support staff and resources, see increased restoration outputs and outcomes. Fiscal year 2016 planned performance targets include the restoration of 68,000 acres and 350 stream or shoreline miles. The Department and its co-trustees will accomplish these goals through the use of settlement funds or in-kind services received in settlement of damage assessment claims with responsible parties.

Currently, the RSU provides a wide suite of restoration support services to case teams and trustee councils across the Nation, including the following:

- Restoration planning, including development of the required restoration plan which must be publicly reviewed;
- Restoration science technical support;
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance support;
- Project management planning and support, and
- Liaison with other restoration programs and services across the spectrum (government/contractor/non-profits/local organizations)

In addition to these activities, the RSU staff will lead best practices and technology transfer and outreach activities to ensure that restoration advances made by individual case teams will be shared with fellow restoration practitioners. Examples include participation on the continued development and fine-tuning of the Restoration Planning class that will be taught again in 2015 at the FWS National Conservation Training Center and will include modules specifically targeted at NRDAR restoration specialists. The RSU will continue to maintain its partnerships with the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) and the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC), and they will continue to develop and implement policies and guidance to coordinate restoration planning and NEPA compliance actions.

For 2016, the RSU will focus on adding FTE with specific restoration-centric technical skills. For example, extensive construction may be required to restore a stream or riparian area that has been injured from the release of hazardous materials. Therefore, it may be necessary to engage specialists with experience in stream dynamics, flow regimes, or channel morphology in order to complete an appropriate restoration project. Because it may not be feasible for the bureaus to individually hire this expertise, the RSU will retain this specialist, which will allow them to support restoration projects throughout the country and across Bureaus.

In addition to new technical support staff in the RSU, new restoration-dedicated staff will be added to the FWS, given that the bureau often acts as Authorized Official and lead on most of the Department's NRDAR cases. The 2016 funding increase will support 3 new allocation FTE in the Service to plan, oversee, and conduct habitat restoration projects. A review of the fund balance indicates that much the majority of settlement funds are located in specific geographic areas of the country. Given this distribution, staff will be targeted to increasing restoration outputs and outcomes in three areas. These geographic regions are in the western, central (including the Great Plains and Great Lakes States), and the eastern U.S. Lastly, in an effort to close out cases with small balances (less than $100,000 in restoration funds), these new restoration specialists will also target the completion of restoration plans for these cases and moving the funds towards restoration. This will use a variety of methods such as partnering with

existing Restoration Programs within DOI (e.g., the FWS Partners and Coastal Program), engaging with the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives to identify target restoration areas, species, and habitat types, and with non-governmental organizations that specialize in identifying and implementing habitat restoration projects.

In order to leverage other scientists and restoration experts, we will utilize a variety of agreements, partnerships, and memoranda of agreements (MOA) to further restoration science, implementation, and monitoring. For example, scientists from the USGS are working with the Restoration Support Unit in developing protocols to improve the monitoring and management of restoration projects and the development of 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 carefully crafted into restoration plans. These efforts are focusing on species distributions, abundance and diversity, invasive species, community development and, when possible, ecosystem resiliency which is critically important as the NRDAR program addresses the influence of global climate change on restoration planning, the role of global climate change in environmental responses to chemical exposure, how climate change may affect the damage assessment process, and to explore how restoration activities may aid in the adaptation and mitigation of climate change effects in our environment. The Program will continue to support and work with USGS in 2016.

Other agreements may include developing relationships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to identify and implement suitable restoration projects that meet the criteria in a Restoration Plan. Several NGOs specialize in evaluating habitat restoration projects, and efforts would include the development of a formal agreement with the NGO via an MOA or grant or cooperative agreement for restoration.

Lastly, the Program will continue with the Restoration Catalyst Fund. This was a pilot project that was begun in 2014 in which a portion of prior year balances were used to fund projects. A competitive proposal process is used, seeking to evaluate project proposals that would serve to catalyze restoration projects and increase the pace and volume of restoration actions, and by extension, the amount of money withdrawn from the Restoration Fund. The program was continued in 2015 and further refined to use an electronic proposal process.

RESTORING INJURED RESOURCES

Following an oil spill or the release of a hazardous substance, the natural resource trustees evaluate the injury to our trust resources and then write a restoration plan that outlines the projects that will be conducted to restore the inured resource. As part of the planning process, the public is invited to participate and provide comments on the proposed restoration projects. The goal of the restoration projects is to restore the injured resource or the service lost as a result of the spill or release back to baseline condition, or the level that would exist had the spill or release not occurred. For example, if an oil spill results in the destruction of beach dune habitat that is used by shorebirds for nesting, then the restoration projects are designed to restore or create similar dune or beach habitat. Similarly, if the removal of a hazardous chemical from a wetland results in the loss of this wetland, the resulting restoration projects would be designed to restore the same wetland at its current location to its baseline condition, or to replace or acquire similar habitat nearby.

The following are examples of recent on-the-ground restoration accomplished by the Department of the Interior's bureaus and their co-trustee counterparts. These examples are representative of the wide range of restoration actions that the trustees may take to restore inured resources.

Upper Arkansas River/California Gulch Superfund Site, Colorado

The California Gulch Superfund site in Leadville, Colorado is an 18-square mile area where historic mining activities impacted groundwater as well as aquatic and terrestrial resources in the upper Arkansas River Watershed. Extensive contamination and injury to natural resources at this site placed it on the National Priorities List in 1983, and in 1984 it was divided into 12 geographically based areas, known as operable units. The historic mining left hundreds of abandoned mines, miles of underground tunnels and shafts, and large waste rock and tailings deposits continuing a discharge of heavy metals and acid into California Gulch at the headwaters of the Arkansas River.

The natural resource trustees, consisting of the Department of the Interior, represented by the Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Reclamation; and the State of Colorado, represented by Colorado Department of Law, Colorado Department of Natural Resources, and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment settled natural resource damage claims at the site in 2008. The settlements reached with ASARCO LLC and Resurrection Mining Company/Newmont USA Ltd. provided $20.5 million for natural resource restoration project planning, implementation, and administration.

The Arkansas River is used extensively for recreation, irrigation of agricultural and range lands, and municipal drinking water. The heavy metals in the mining waste posed a serious threat to

human health and safety and injured wildlife such as the American dipper, tree swallow and brown trout, and their supporting habitats.

Construction activities at the upper Arkansas River excavated pools, created stream riffles, and added woody debris and boulders to create improved feeding and spawning areas in the river. (FWS photo)

In the upper reaches of the Arkansas River, several restoration projects focused on improving aquatic habitat for wildlife and invertebrates, and increasing brown trout populations by providing feeding areas, overhead cover, spawning areas and overwintering refuge habitat have been completed or are in progress. Stream restoration efforts included excavating pools, creating stream riffles, adding logs and root wads, installing boulders, planting and re-seeding riparian vegetation along banks, and installing livestock exclusion fencing. The in-stream restoration benefits not only fish and birds but also the public, which now has a resource to enjoy, whether fishing, bird watching or simply enjoying the beauty of the basin.

In 2014 the upper Arkansas River was designated by the State of Colorado as Gold Medal Trout Waters, spanning 102 miles. Gold Medal Waters are considered the highest quality cold-water habitats accessible to the public and offer the greatest potential for trophy trout fishing. Trout are now thriving and living up to 10 years, when just 20 years ago the trout populations were devastated by mining pollution, unable to live in the immediate area and rarely lived beyond three years in the downstream reaches. The addition of these 102 miles of the Arkansas River increases the total Gold Medal stream miles in Colorado by nearly 50 percent, to 322 total miles.

Restoration projects have significantly improved aquatic habitat for natural resources, leading to the designation of 102 miles of the upper reaches of the Arkansas River as a Gold Medal Trout Waters fishing site. (FWS photo)

The in-stream and riparian habitat restoration projects are only one part of the overall river restoration effort on the upper Arkansas River. Other elements include water-quality monitoring, upland habitat improvements, habitat protection efforts, and noxious weed control. Other projects are also underway, including work to permanently protect important areas and projects to re-seed impacted areas with native vegetation.

Housatonic River PCBs Site, Connecticut/Massachusetts

The Housatonic River flows 150 miles from its headwaters in western Massachusetts through Connecticut empting into Long Island Sound. From 1932 to 1977, the General Electric Company (GE) operated a 254-acre facility in Pittsfield, MA, manufacturing and servicing electrical transformers containing PCBs. Years of PCB and industrial chemical use with improper disposal led to extensive contamination into the Housatonic River environment, contaminating the river's water, sediment, riverbanks, and floodplain, as well as various species of fish and wildlife.

In the final NRDAR settlement, GE agreed to pay $15 million for natural resource restoration projects, split evenly between the States of Massachusetts and Connecticut. The settlement funds are controlled under Federal law by natural resource trustees who in this case included the Department of the Interior, represented by the Fish and Wildlife Service; the Department of Commerce, represented by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, represented by Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs; and the State of Connecticut, represented by Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

The trustees released a publicly-reviewed Restoration Plan for Connecticut in July 2009, recommending $7 million for 27 restoration projects across three restoration categories: aquatic natural resources, riparian and floodplain natural resources, and recreational use of natural resources. A separate restoration process in Massachusetts has resulted in 14 projects and close to $4 million being awarded to a wide variety of projects ranging from public access and education to habitat enhancement and protection. A third round of projects, involving $2 million for land acquisition is currently pending, with additional projects expected in the future.

Restoration projects along the Housatonic River have restored public use and increased recreational opportunities by installing five new canoe launching sites, fishing platforms, and creating several walking and biking trails. Old Mill Trail, a riverside walking trail in Dalton, MA provides the public with access to approximately 1.5 miles of scenic and historic riverfront along the east branch of the river and incorporates the history of abandoned riverside mill operations. The area is also open to recreation including hunting, fishing, and trapping. The mile-long Sega Meadows Trail in New Milford, CT provides access to the river floodplain for bicycling, walking, picnicking, camping, and fishing.

The Housatonic settlement has also provided funding for five fish habitat restoration projects. The Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) has installed a new fishway on Furnace Brook in Cornwall, Connecticut to restore access to upstream spawning habitat for wild and stocked trout.

Construction of bypass channel at the Tingue Dam. (Photo by CT DE&EP)

The Trustees also joined with numerous partners in constructing a nature-like bypass channel around the Tingue Dam on the Naugatuck River in Seymour, Connecticut. The new bypass channel provides passage for American shad, blueback herring, alewife and American eel to more than 30 miles of riverine habitat for spawning, juvenile rearing, and growth. A town park and overlook provide excellent views of the channel. Several other river restoration projects are in the project design and feasibility stage.

Workers admire their success as waters return to the newly installed fishway on Furnace Brook. (Photo: Housatonic Valley Association)

Working with numerous partners, the trustees have also protected or restored hundreds of acres of wildlife habitat in Massachusetts and Connecticut, primarily riparian floodplain forests and fields adjacent to the Housatonic and its tributaries. Many parcels are actively managed to reduce invasive species and restore native vegetation. One recent acquisition in Connecticut permanently protects a 39-acre property which abuts nearly one-half mile of the Housatonic

River in Salisbury, Connecticut. The field and riparian corridor provide habitat for songbirds such as grey catbirds, Eastern kingbirds and yellow warblers. The field also provides a scenic vista to the River from the Appalachian Trail and it affords access for fishing, hiking, and birding.

Torch / Platform Irene Oil Spill, California

On September 28, 1997 a discharge of crude oil occurred from a rupture in a 20-inch pipeline owned or operated by Torch Operating Company, Nuevo Energy Company, and Black Hawk Oil and Gas Company. The pipeline extended from Platform Irene, an offshore oil platform, to an onshore processing facility in Santa Barbara County, California. The Spill released at least 163 barrels (6,846 gallons) of petroleum products into the Pacific Ocean.

Oiled red-necked phalarope from Platform Irene spill (Photo: CA Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Subsequently, oil contaminated 17 miles of coastline and damaged a variety of natural resources including mussels, abalone, seabirds, shorebirds, and shoreline and intertidal habitats. The spill impacted an estimated 800 birds, including endangered brown pelicans, threatened western snowy plovers, common murre, Brandt's cormorant, and 18 other species. The coastline is now part of the California Coastal National Monument which comprises more than 20,000 rocks, islands, exposed reefs, and pinnacles along the 1,100 miles of coastline, and is managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

In 2002, a settlement including $2.4 million for natural resource damages was approved. Projects funded by the settlement include the Seabird Colony Enhancement Project, sandy beach dune habitat restoration, the Rocky Intertidal Habitat Protection Program, mussel bed restoration, and a public-accessible boardwalk at Ocean Beach Park. Two of these projects are highlighted below.

The Torch/Platform Irene Trustees directed $1.2 million in settlement funds to establish the Seabird Colony Enhancement Project over a 300 mile long area within BLM's California Coastal National Monument. The goal of the project is to restore populations of nesting and roosting seabirds such as cormorants, common murres, threatened western snowy plovers, and the endangered California brown pelicans by reducing multiple kinds of human disturbances to colonies and to monitor progress toward recovery of seabird populations. This Seabird Protection Network from Pt. Sur to Pt. Mugu is a collaborative project that brings together the public, scientists, community groups, businesses, interpreters, law enforcement officers, non-

profit groups, and State and Federal agencies. The collaboration was created to more effectively understand, manage, and protect the seabirds that nest and roost along the South Central Coast of California. Efforts are being made through organized outreach and education programs combined with law enforcement and other seabird management actions to ensure seabird colonies are protected.

Rocky outcrops within the California Coastal National Monument provide valuable habitat for nesting and roosting seabirds. (FWS Photo)

Additionally, viewing wildlife at Ocean Beach Park in Santa Barbara County was enhanced with the construction of a boardwalk that includes a kiosk with information about wildlife and the 36-acre Ocean Beach Park. The park is a rich biological area that is home to the threatened western snowy plover and endangered California least tern. The plover nests at the beach, which is closed from March through September during the plover's breeding season. Loons, brown pelicans, and herons also frequent the beach.

Restoration of dune habitat on Vandenberg Air Force Base in CA has brought 38 western snowy plover nests into sandy dune habitat that formerly supported only 2 nests. (FWS Photo)

After more than four years of project implementation, the sandy beach and dune habitat restoration program demonstrated resounding success this year. Following the removal of 50 acres of ice-plant and European beach grass from western snowy plover habitat on Vandenberg Air Force Base, 38 plover nests were detected where only two had been seen prior to the restoration. Endangered California least terns were also observed in the restored area, teaching their fledglings to fish in the adjacent Santa Ynez River estuary. Based on the success of the restoration, Vandenberg Air Force Base has secured additional funding from other sources to expand future beach restoration to an additional 300 acres in 2015-2019.

Freeport-McMoRan Mine Sites (formerly Phelps Dodge Industrial), New Mexico

The Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold Inc. (FMI) mines, in Grant County, southwestern New Mexico injured wildlife and wildlife habitat resources, as well as terrestrial habitat when hazardous substances were released from three copper mining facilities owned by FMI. The Chino, Tyrone, and Cobre mines released hazardous substances including sulfuric acid and metals/metalloids, including arsenic, beryllium, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, copper, lead, manganese, mercury, nickel, selenium, and zinc.

These three large copper mining sites have been the site of several large bird kills and previous mining activities have exposed migratory birds to toxic waters. In 2012 the Trustee Council comprised of the New Mexico Office of Natural Resource Trustee; and the Department of Interior, represented by the Fish and Wildlife Service, reached a $5.5 million dollar natural resource damage settlement with FMI for injuries to fish and wildlife resources.

The Santa Rita open pit at the Chino Mine site in Grant County, New Mexico, is one of the largest copper mines in the world. This mining site is one of the three mines in southwestern New Mexico subject to the settlement agreement. FWS photo.

A restoration plan was completed and approved in 2013, by the trustees that included a combination of land acquisition and compensatory restoration to offset the injuries. The trustees partnered with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish in late 2014 to acquire two properties, the Double E Ranch and River Ranch, to be managed by the state for wildlife resources. Both ranches are along water courses that are important corridors for migratory birds in the desert southwest. The Double E Ranch provided 5,828 acres of riparian and upland habitat along Bear Creek. This included canyon-bound perennial waters that provide habitat for federally listed loach minnow, southwestern willow flycatcher, and yellow-billed cuckoo as well as migratory birds. The River Ranch comprised 1,010 acres of riparian habitat, wetlands, and grasslands along the Mimbres River that includes habitat for federally listed Chihuahua chub, southwestern willow flycatcher, and yellow-billed cuckoo as well as a unique velvet ash gallery riparian forest, known as “bosque” in the Southwestern U.S.

Three habitat restoration projects were also started in 2014. The Burro Cienaga is a closed basin adjacent to the mine, part of a rare and imperiled desert wetland, known as a cienaga, and serves

as a stopover point for migratory birds, and also supports the federally listed Chiricahua leopard frog and Gila topminnow. Trustees are also working with five ranchers in the Burro Cienaga to implement a watershed plan that maintains unique grasslands, increases critical groundwater levels and expands the Burro Cienaga wetland. The restoration plan also calls for improvements to rainwater catchment stock ponds found across the ranches to expand water sources to wildlife and support livestock. The Mimbres River restoration projects focus on improving the riparian area by removing encroaching junipers and non-native trees that compete against and exclude native riparian vegetation. In addition, spring sources along the river will be restored to improve function and connectivity to the river and provide habitat for the federally-listed Chiricahua leopard frog and Chihuahua chub. These projects are scheduled to be completed over five years.

Bear Creek provides a vital water source on the recently acquired Double E Ranch property. (FWS photo)

The trustees also leveraged matching funds provided by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish for land acquisitions, allowing the trustees to make efficient use of settlement funds and are now evaluating additional restoration projects for implementation.

Chevron Refinery/Castro Cove, California

Chevron USA, Inc. owns and operates a petroleum refinery in Richmond, California which, prior to 1987, discharged wastewater directly into Castro Cove, a remote shallow embayment within San Pablo Bay. Although the wastewater discharge was relocated outside Castro Cove in 1987, sediments inside the Cove retained elevated levels of contaminants, including mercury and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). In 2007 and 2008 Chevron undertook a major, on-site cleanup project, removing the most highly contaminated sediments within Castro Cove, in compliance with an order issued by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Natural resources injured included intertidal mudflat, salt marsh and shallow subtidal habitats and the benthic invertebrates, fish, mammals, and birds which rely on those habitats. The federally listed endangered species that use Castro Cove include the salt marsh harvest mouse, clapper rail, and steelhead salmon.

Southern Castro Cove and Chevron Richmond Refinery, with Wildcat Creek entering Castro Cove in the background. (Photo: CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife)

The natural resource trustees, including the Department of the Interior, represented by the Fish and Wildlife Service; the Department of Commerce, represented by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife began a cooperative assessment with Chevron, ultimately resulting in a settlement for $2.85 million for restoration projects at Breuner Marsh and Cullinan Ranch.

Breuner Marsh is in close proximity to Castro Cove in the City of Richmond, and the trustee's tidal marsh restoration project will provide resource benefits similar to those that would have been provided by an uncontaminated Castro Cove habitat. The settlement funds restored approximately 30 acres of land suitable for tidal marsh, in the East Bay Regional Park District. The restored tidal wetlands at the Breuner site provide spawning and nursery habitat for fish; foraging and roosting habitat for shorebirds, wading birds, waterfowl, passerines, and raptors; and another source of primary productivity of organic carbon and nutrients to the ecosystem. This project will also provide long-term, self-sustaining tidal wetlands, seasonal wetlands, and coastal prairie, create valuable habitat for special status species, and enhance public access for compatible passive recreation and public education.

This area along the eastern shore of San Francisco Bay will be enhanced and expanded as part of the restoration of Breuner Marsh. (Photo: NOAA)

Cullinan Ranch, a former hay farm along San Pablo Bay, is approximately 12.5 miles north of Castro Cove, and now part of San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The project, the largest wetland restoration on the West Coast, will restore approximately 1,500 acres of diked baylands back to their historical wetland state as mature tidal marsh. A proportional share of the project equating to 158 acres was funded by the trustees using funds from the Chevron Castro Cove settlement. This project provides resource benefits similar to those lost at Castro Cove and the funds allocated by the trustees acted as a catalyst for the larger restoration project, drawing in additional partners and funds.

The first of four breaches of tidal levees separating Cullinan Ranch from the tide waters of San Francisco Bay creating approximately 1,200 acres of tidal marsh. (Photo: NOAA).
Video: http://www.vibvallejo.com/uncategorized/dutchman-slough-levees-breached-cullinan-ranch-returns-to-wetland-video/

In January 2015, the trustees and other partners joined in celebrating breaching the Cullinan Ranch levee, re-introducing tidal water for the first time in over 100 years to 1,200-acres just off Highway 37 in Vallejo. Over time, this area will become an expansive marsh, bisected by tidal marsh channels and filled with a multitude of birds, fish and other aquatic species. Public access to the site includes a kiosk with a viewing area, interpretive panels and benches as well as a 1.5 mile trail out to another viewing area on South Slough. In addition, a state of the art, universally accessible fishing pier and kayak launching facility were constructed.

ACTIVITY: INLAND OIL SPILL PREPAREDNESS

Cleaning oiled debris from the Big Oxbow State Wildlife Management District following the March 2014 Zavanna Private Frazier Well Spill, North Dakota. Ice dams near the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri River cause an oil storage tank to topple and leak (inset) resulting in impacts to State, Federal (BLM), and private lands and habitat for endangered pallid sturgeon, piping plover, and terns. (Photo Credit: USEPA, Region 6).

Appropriation: Natural Resource Damage Assessment		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	Fixed Costs	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Request
Activity: Inland Oil Spill Preparedness	$000	0	1,000	0	0	+100	1,100
	FTE	0	1	0	0	0	1

Justification of 2016 Program Changes:

Inland Oil Spill Preparedness (+$100,000/ +0 FTE) - The 2016 budget request for Inland Oil Spill Preparedness is $1,100,000 and 1 FTE, a program increase of $100,000 from the 2015 enacted level. Specifically, the requested increase will be used to support the Inland Spill of National Significance (SONS) exercises for the Columbia River Gorge currently scheduled for early in FY 2016. The funds will allow for broader DOI field participation, instead of a desk-top exercise. A larger field exercise will provide a significant amount of hands-on training to Departmental bureaus and offices who would build working relationships with other Federal, State and tribal agencies that respond to inland oil spills.

Issue Overview

In the past few years, the Nation's domestic oil production has increased dramatically, largely due to the use of hydraulic fracturing technology to access deposits that were previously uneconomical to recover. According to many experts, in the next five to ten years, the U.S. will likely continue to greatly reduce its reliance on foreign oil and could become a net exporter of oil and gas. The latest data show that annual domestic oil production grew from approximately 2.06 billion barrels in 2011 to 2.72 billion barrels (bbl) in 2013, an increase of 32 percent in only 2 years. Continued near-term growth is projected to reach 9.6 billion barrels before 2020. Domestic annual crude oil production is projected to surge to 3.4 billion barrels in 2015, an increase of 65 percent from 2011 levels. (Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration)

Areas where oil and gas production have increased dramatically in recent years and include:

- Increases in production of 156 percent in Midwestern states, and 49 percent in Rocky Mountain States;
- A production boom in the Bakken shale formation in North Dakota and Montana, where. North Dakota oil production increased by over 1,000 percent from 2000 to 2014; over 1 million bbl/day is now being produced from the Bakken play.
- An increase of 65 percent in the Permian Basin (Texas & New Mexico) and the Western Gulf Basin (Texas) from 2000 to 2012. Since 2010, Texas oil production has grown from 34 million bbl/month to over 104 million bbl/month, an increase of 206 percent.

This significant growth in domestic oil production has spurred a boom in pipeline construction to transport domestic oil from mid-western and western oil fields, and Canadian tar sands oil (bitumen) to Gulf Coast refineries. Since 2010, seven major pipeline projects have been completed in the U.S. consisting of new construction and other projects to expand capacity in existing pipelines. Further, a total of 13 new pipeline projects are expected to come online by the end of 2014 to deliver growing shipments of crude to Gulf Coast refineries and storage facilities. From 2004 to 2011, U.S, crude oil pipeline infrastructure expanded from over 49 thousand miles to over 55 thousand miles.

Accelerating oil production in some areas is happening so fast that industry has turned to rail transport instead of waiting for pipelines to be constructed and transportation of oil by rail and truck has greatly increased. Data from the Association of American Railroads reveals the annual amount of oil transported by rail increased nearly 83-fold from 2008 to 2014, growing from 9,500 tanker cars to an estimated 794,000 tanker cars.

With the growth in oil production and transport comes the increased risk of spills that could impact public lands and resources under the trusteeship of the Department. Recent pipeline spills such as the ExxonMobil Yellowstone River spill in Montana (July 2011) and the ExxonMobil Pegasus Pipeline oil spill in Arkansas (March 2013) illustrate the real hazards of

aging pipeline infrastructure, which accounted for 65 percent of the reported pipeline failures from 2002 to 2009. Likewise, the April 2013 rail accident in which a train carrying Bakken crude oil derailed and caught fire in Lynchburg, VA, spilling oil into the adjacent James River highlight the potential impacts from increased rail transport of oil. In 2013, more than 1.15 million gallons of oil was spilled during rail accidents, more than the total from the past 35 years combined. The Department, other government agencies, and various industries are working to improve efficiencies and environmental safeguards to address the related risks and challenges that come with increased domestic production and transportation. To ensure that the Department and its bureaus are prepared to respond to potential spills, the Department is improving its inland oil spill preparedness and response capabilities.

Response to Crude-by-Rail spill: In November 2013, twenty-six (26) tanker cars derailed near Aliceville, AL and spilled 540,000 gallons of Bakken crude into environmentally sensitive wetlands. Clean-up operations were conducted over a 31-day period. (FWS photo)

Activity Overview:

Through the National Response System, EPA leads the federal response for inland oil spills and the U.S. Coast Guard leads the Federal response for spills occurring offshore and in navigable waterways, including major rivers, lakes and bays. DOI is a primary Federal natural resource trustee with vast resources that could potentially be impacted by inland oil spills, including those managed by the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureaus of Land Management and Reclamation, and the trust lands and resources of Native American tribes. It is critical that DOI serve as a strong partner in the oil spill contingency planning process to address potential impacts to resources under the trusteeship and management of Interior Bureaus.

Discharges of oil and other hazardous substances from petroleum product production and transportation and inland facilities, including pipelines, can injure trust resources in a variety of ways. The Secretary of the Interior has trust responsibility for resources such as threatened and endangered species, national wildlife refuges, national parks, monuments, seashores, and historic sites, national conservation lands, reservoirs, reserved water rights, and certain Indian lands. When a spill occurs, employees of the Department's many bureaus are often the first responders, along with State or local responders and EPA on-scene coordinators. Pre-incident planning requires DOI employees to participate in local, regional and national contingency planning including contingency response teams, area contingency plans, and spill drills. It is this participation in such drills that will result in effective teamwork if a spill incident occurs.

The Department's Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPC) leads and coordinates DOI's participation on the National Response Team (NRT) for both preparedness and response. One of its key activities is to coordinate DOI input to the Regional and Area Committee planning process, but DOI bureaus' budget constraints have limited their participation. While OEPC can provide generalized information regarding DOI resources, field-level expertise from the bureaus is needed to identify specific areas for oil collection and deflection, as well avoidance areas for personnel and equipment. Lack of DOI bureau participation in EPA and U.S. Coast Guard led Regional and Area Committee meetings and exercises in prior years has resulted in (1) information gaps on DOI trust resources in contingency plans, (2) notification and communication challenges between EPA/U.S. Coast Guard and DOI during oil spill responses, and (3) unfamiliarity by DOI resource managers with oil spill response operations and organizations.

The program's objective is to improve DOI's overall preparedness and ability to respond to inland oil spills in ways that can better protect the Nation's natural and cultural resources, historic properties, and DOI lands, resources, and interests. The program will be a coordinated, integrated, cross-cutting effort involving FWS, NPS, USGS, BLM, BIA, BOR, and OEPC that will identify and support targeted work on Regional, Area, and Geographic Contingency Plans based on where the greatest risks and vulnerabilities exist that may adversely affect DOI lands,

resources, and interests. In 2015, DOI provided review of several Area Contingency Plans (ACPs) including an updated Maine/New Hampshire ACP, and provided comments and information on endangered species for use by EPA Regions 8 and 9 during their response activities. Strong DOI engagement in the planning process is critical because these plans establish the response strategies that will be put into effect immediately by initial responders during the first few hours of an oil spill.

In addition, the program will support DOI Bureau field staff's participation in Area Committee oil spill response exercises alongside EPA and USCG staff, to experience and learn oil spill response organizations and operations, the roles of the on scene coordinator and the Regional Response Teams, and build necessary relationships to work effectively towards protecting DOI trust resources when an oil spill occurs.

In 2015, the National Response Team and the Spill of National Significance (SONS) Executive Steering Committee approved an Inland SONS exercise proposal for a crude-by-rail incident along the Columbia River Gorge that was developed by DOI through an interagency planning committee. Planning for the Inland SONS exercise has begun, and will be conducted early in FY 2016. The exercise will involve impacts the Bonneville Dam (operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), DOI lands and resources, tribal resources, and both Washington and Oregon states. Both the Inland zone and the Coastal zone are impacted in this exercise (the dam is the dividing line) with EPA and USCG having respective lead Federal response authority. The exercise is being designed to have a NRDAR training component.

Other activities planned for 2015 include participation on three FEMA-led crude-by-rail response exercises with State, local, and tribal sponsors. DOI is also working with FEMA to combine one of these exercises with the proposed Inland SONS exercise.

In 2016, the Department is requesting funds to improve its inland oil spill response capability. The funds would be used to train employees in spill preparedness, including understanding response techniques, participation in contingency planning, and establishing and maintaining an operational program that will result in more timely and more effective Departmental response to inland oil spills.

2016 Activity Performance:

The program's performance will be evaluated and documented to ensure robust programmatic performance and to support evidence-based decision making. This increase will build on the 2015 increase to support a valuable multi-year DOI crosscutting program with OEPC's Environmental Safeguards Group (ESG) who will support the inland spill program, provide advice, and document its program activities.

The ESG and the Restoration Program are uniquely equipped to work with DOI bureaus and offices to implement this unified Departmental program to deliver products and activities that improve DOI's inland oil spill preparedness. It is important to avoid having each bureau and office pursue its own program independently with no coordination or leveraged efforts. By working together, DOI bureaus and offices can leverage efforts to optimize this program's performance.

The program would identify and support participation by field and regional contacts to bolster information in these plans regarding natural and cultural resources, historic properties, and DOI lands, resources, and interests which could be threatened by an inland oil spill. This information would be developed and updated using a Geospatial Platform to consolidate data from all of the DOI bureaus and offices and other federal agencies such as EPA and DOT's Pipeline Hazards Safety Materials Administration (PHMSA).

With the modest increase requested in 2016, the DOI program will continue to provide resources to enable DOI Bureaus and office's participation in the following:

- Committee planning activities;
- Participation in inland oil spill response exercises and drills held by the EPA, U.S. Coast Guard, and National or Regional Response Teams;
- Continued development of an online library of applicable spill response guidance, templates, and technical resources related to contingency planning and response activities;
- Develop targeted training to support effective engagement in inland oil spill contingency planning and response activities with a special emphasis on highlighting protective measures for our natural and cultural resources and tribal lands.

ACTIVITY: PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

Appropriation: Natural Resource Damage Assessment		2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	Fixed Costs	Internal Transfers (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	2016 Request
Activity: Program Management	$000	1,935	2,192	+41	0	+233	2,466
	FTE	7	7	0	0	0	7

Justification of 2016 Program Changes:

Program Management (+233,000) - The 2016 budget request for Program Management is $2,466,000 and 7 direct FTE, a program increase of $233,000 from the 2015 enacted level. The requested increase will be used to continue to provide funding for bureau support positions in the five trustee bureaus (known as the Restoration Program Workgroup) and those bureaus and offices that provide technical support to the Departmental program. The Program provides one FTE for each participating bureau and office. Additionally, in recent years, the Program Office has increased its use of Information Technology tools and systems. The requested increase will also contribute to system operation and maintenance and improving its usefulness for participating bureaus and offices.

Activity Overview:

Program Management provides the strategic vision, direction, management, and coordination of inter-Departmental activities necessary for the Department to carry out the Restoration Program. It manages the intersection and complex interdisciplinary relationships between 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 raise 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) and technical support offices (USGS, Office of Policy Analysis, and the Office of the Solicitor). A fully integrated Departmental program requires bureau participation on the Workgroup and Program

Management Team, as well as continued regional coordination and technical support in science, economics, and law.

The Restoration Program Office will continue its ongoing efforts to enhance its outreach to tribes in three significant ways. First, it will continue monthly conference calls with tribal co-trustees interested in the natural resource management and restoration activities of the Department. Second, the program will continue its tribal training initiative, begun in FY 2014, which promotes collaboration with interested tribal co-trustees to design a natural resource damage assessment (NRDA) training for tribal members and technical consultants. This effort will utilize existing Departmental and tribal training resources, educators, and experts to develop a curriculum and materials that are targeted to tribal resources in a NRDA context. Third, in FY 2015, the program will sponsor a Tribal Training Workshop to bring together Federal, State and tribal NRDAR practitioners in an effort to identify best restoration practices, particularly in a tribal restoration context.

Coincident to the Program improving relationships with tribal co-trustees and governments, is an equally important effort to maintain and improve communications with State co-trustees by coordinating with a consortium of State trustee agencies on issues of mutual interest, with the intent of leading to the development of policies, improved assessment techniques, sharing of best practices, and if needed, regulatory revisions. Additionally, the program continues to support the development of Memoranda of Agreements (MOA) with State agencies as acknowledgement of our common interests and/or responsibilities as designated natural resource trustees. These MOAs address coordination and cooperation in damage assessment activities, settlement negotiations and in the development of claims. This coordination allows the program and State agencies to work together toward the common goal of restoration of natural resources.

The Department continues to collaborate with the International Group of Protection and Indemnity Clubs (P&I Clubs) to consider appropriate cooperative damage assessment activities during marine spill incidents involving vessels they insure (about 95% of all vessels afloat).

Additionally, the program has continued to foster its relationships with non-governmental entities, such as The Nature Conservancy, the Wildlife Habitat Council, and NatureServe, whose missions' are consistent with the Program's goal of restoring natural resources. The Program Office will continue to collaborate with the Wildlife Habitat Council and its work to develop clean up strategies which ensure collaboration between regulatory agencies to help achieve successful remediation and restoration. Likewise, the Program Office will continue its recent partnership with NatureServe, a non-profit conservation organization which strives to provide a scientific basis for conservation activities. The Program Office will interface its existing case information with NatureServe's ecosystems, species, and existing land conditions datasets in order to get a complete picture of conditions where damage assessments are being conducted and restoration projects are ongoing and/or completed. Data will also be used to determine baseline

habitats in areas which have been damaged by hazardous substance releases or oil spills as well as effective ways to monitor success at restoration projects. Lastly, the Program Office will continue its collaboration with the National Mitigation Banking Association whose aim is to encourage the use of mitigation banking as a means of compensating for adverse impacts to the environment.

The Restoration Program Office continues to expand the deployment and use of information technology tools through increasing the use of video-conferencing and developing program document libraries and document collaboration tools on the Program's SharePoint site. These improvements and the enhanced use of information technology by the Program Office has resulted in reduced travel costs, consistent with Secretarial and Administration priorities, while increasing internal communications efficiency.

Lastly, the Restoration Program Office is continuing to refine and make better use of the tools it has in place for a more effective program through the development of an integrated system to track damage assessment and restoration actions and outcomes. When completed, this online system will allow the Program Office to track cases from new case initiation through damage assessment, claim closeout, restoration implementation/monitoring, and case closure. This system will produce functional reports for use by various stakeholders; high-quality, accessible, relevant information and data; and provide for one centralized location for data and documents.

2016 Program Performance:

All current Program Management efforts and activities are focused on providing the tools, processes, or infrastructure to achieve restoration of injured natural resources. In 2016, in continuing efforts to improve efficiency and effectiveness and to cut costs, the Program Office will seek to meet target goals by broadening its use of information technology in communicating with the program's Workgroup, bureaus, State, tribal, and other Federal agency partners as follows:

- Combining the use of DOI video conferencing, webinar, and SharePoint enterprise software technology. This technology will be used for all monthly meetings of the Program's Workgroup to discuss program and policy issues affecting new and ongoing damage assessment projects and policies, improving inter-Departmental communications and saving travel time and expense.

- Developing online trainings for NRDAR practitioners including general NRDAR Beginner and Expert level courses, as well as specific courses such as performing economic analyses for damage assessment cases.

- Migrating the office's SharePoint site to the 2013 version to allow for easier online collaboration and sharing of documents, as well as increase the ability to search for

documents and cases. Migrating to SharePoint 2013 will allow the Program Office to find detailed information on damage assessment cases quickly in order to prepare reports on trends and best practices.

- Maintaining the office's document library within SharePoint will provide Departmental bureaus and offices access to historical case documents, including case project funding proposals dating back to 1999, as well as the attendant allocation memoranda and other supporting program documents. The Program's document library contains documents that have been generated through case activities such as Pre-Assessment Screens, Assessment Plans, Restoration Plans, and Consent Decrees. All of these documents are stored in the library in a searchable file format. What was previously a vast collection of information and documents is becoming useful data that is organized and searchable.

- Development of damage assessment and restoration tracking system allows for the organization and standardization of damage assessment project data so that the Program can track assessment project performance and the attainment of important case milestones. Such project performance data serves as an objective basis for future funding decisions.

- Enhancing and improving the design, content, and accessibility of the Program's website (http://www.doi.gov/restoration). A calendar of events feature informs the public of upcoming events related to public review of assessment and restoration plans, public meetings, and restoration site openings. Additionally, the online map component being developed as part of the information tracking system will allow the public to find information using different search parameters including state, eco-regions, and incident type. The public will be able to find cases and retrieve documents based on affected trust resources, contaminants of concern, as well as by the names of potentially responsible parties. The individual case home pages will provide basic case information including a summary of the incident, links to trustees involved and case documents, as well as the latest on the status of the case and any settlements.

The 2016 request level will support the broadened Departmental communication, consultation, and coordination activities with Federal, State, and tribal co-trustees, the environmental community, industry and the public. Continued cooperation and coordination with co-trustees is critical to increasing restoration productivity, and will enhance opportunities for efficiencies and to identify and eliminate duplication of effort and process redundancies.

Program management activities in 2016 will also continue efforts to develop, refine, and update a number of existing administrative and policy tools to improve consistency, effectiveness, and maximize restoration outcomes. Among these efforts are the following:

- Review of existing case team best practices at ongoing damage assessment cases, in areas such as information management practices, seeking to promote successful approaches practitioners can use to keep track of their case records and documents as they build a case to reach settlement and eventually implement restoration

- Continue to develop policy and procedures for conducting reviews of damage assessments cases currently on the docket in order to document their status. For cases which are closed or inactive, determine next steps and ensure any unused funds are returned to be reallocated for new or ongoing cases. This review includes the development of internal control review plans to ensure that the program's policies and procedures are effective in order to efficiently carry out its damage assessment and restoration mission requirements.

- Continue to evaluate the appropriate role and use of economic analytical tools used in damage assessment and restoration activities.

- Coordinate with other trustees and restoration funding entities (namely the 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.

- Broaden the opportunities for cooperative assessment by improving existing guidance and documents.

- Continue improvement of public outreach and information sharing through internet-based applications and websites.

- Adopt procedures that promote coordination between response and NRDAR activities.

- Ensure that compliance by federal trustees with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) occurs concurrently with restoration planning.

- Enhance its NRDAR partnerships with academia and non-governmental organizations, through improvements in grants, cooperative agreements, and contracting.

- Encourage the use of existing local and regional restoration plans and databases within other DOI programs for use in NRDAR restoration efforts.

Continued development and broader use of these and other tools will help ensure cross-bureau 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, Forest Service, and NPFC) or indirectly (i.e. EPA

and DOE). The Program will explore opportunities for additional collaboration and coordination, particularly in the area of project prioritization and selection. In 2016, the program will continue to reach out to industry by participating in industry symposia, discussion groups, and lessons learned workshops on NRDAR issues and policy, and encouraging the use of cooperative damage assessments.

As a cost-saving measure, the Restoration Program has transitioned from holding an annual national workshop to a biennial schedule. The next workshop is scheduled for the spring of 2016. In recent years, this workshop has provided training for over 200 practitioners from across the Department on a variety of topics including project management, damage claim development, restoration methods and other scientific and legal issues and trends. As an indicator of collaborative approach that continues to be pursued by the Department and its co-trustees, over 50 State, tribal, and Federal co-trustees as well as representatives from industry and the conservation community also attended the 2014 workshop.

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

Section 403 of the 2015 Interior 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, in which the Department must provide advance notice to and seek approval from the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

For 2016, 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 DOI bureaus, the Department, or other Executive Branch agencies to support bureau, Departmental or Government-wide administrative costs.

External Administrative Costs

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY2014 Actual	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request
DOI Working Capital Fund			
Centralized Billings	121	96	79
Total, DOI Working Capital Fund	121	96	79
DOI Interior Business Center (IBC)			
Direct Billings (Financial Mgmt)	139	126	126
Fee for Services	0	34	35
Financial Managment Systems Support	9	9	9
	148	169	170
Fish and Wildlife Service			
FWS User-Pay Cost Share	139	141	143
Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement			
Personnel / HR Services	25	25	25
U.S. Geological Survey			
Common Services Support	19	25	25
U.S. Department of Justice			
DOJ Sec. 108 3% Offset Authority	39	100	100

Charges related to the Departmental Working Capital Fund (WCF) identified in the preceding table reflect the Restoration Program's share of centralized Departmental expenses for items and expenses such as telecommunications, information technology management, security, mailroom services, costs associated with audited financial statements, and other WCF charges.

The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) levies its User-Pay Cost Share charges on damage assessment and restoration funds provided to the Service from the Restoration Program. Funds collected by FWS are used to offset a range of Servicewide administrative costs. For 2016, User-Pay Cost Share charges to the Restoration Program are estimated to be $142,900. The amounts identified for FY 2015 and 2016 are estimates based on prior year workload, and the actual amounts recovered may be more or less, depending upon actual workload of the previous year, as well as the timing of settlements, and the ability to recover such indirect costs through settlement negotiations. Indirect costs will not be assessed to previous settlements or in cases where FWS indirect costs were not included or recovered in the final settlement. For 2016, FWS currently estimates those charges payable by the DOI Restoration Program to be comparable to the 2015 charges.

Charges related to the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement identified in the preceding table reflect the Restoration Program's share of personnel management and human resources (HR) 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 (USGS) applies a seven percent administrative overhead charge to all funds provided to USGS, primarily to the Columbia Environmental Research Center. Funds collected by the Center are used to offset common client administrative and facility expenses. Funds provided to USGS from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill settlement include a nine percent general administrative assessment.

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, 107 Stat 1164 (1994), and funds recovered under the offset authority are credited to the DOJ Working Capital Fund. The offset is applicable only to collections where the Department of Interior is the sole recipient of the funds. 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 Restoration Program's Program Management activity, which includes its administrative functions and central and regional operations, does not assess or levy any internal program overhead charges, deductions, or holdbacks to support such program operations.

Standard Form 300

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

Program and Financing (in millions)

Identification code 14-1618-0-1-302	2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Request
Obligations by program activity:			
Direct Program:			
0001 Damage Assessments	19	12	10
0002 Prince William Sound Restoration	2	2	2
0003 Other Restoration	27	62	74
0004 Program Management	4	3	3
0005 Oil Spill Preparedness	0	1	1
0900 Total, Direct program	52	80	90
Budgetary resources available for obligation:			
1000 Unobligated balance carried forward, Oct. 1	533	545	613
1010 Unobligated balance transferred to other accounts	-2	-6	-6
(Funds Transferrred to DOC/NOAA 13-4316)	[-2]	[-6]	[-6]
1021 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations	1	1	1
1050 Unobligated balance (total)	532	540	608
Budget Authority			
Appropriations, discretionary			
1100 Appropriation	6	8	9
Appropriations, mandatory			
1201 Appropriation (Special fund)	63	150	100
1220 Appropriation transferred to other accounts	-3	-6	-6
(Funds Transferrred to DOC/NOAA 13-4316)	[-3]	[-6]	[-6]
1203 Appropriations previously unavailable	0	1	0
1232 Appropriations temporarily reduced	-1	0	0
1260 Appropriations (mandatory) total	59	145	94
1900 Budget Authority (total)	65	153	103
1930 Total budgetary resources available	597	693	711
Memorandum (non-add) entries:			
1941 Unobligated balance carried forward, end of year:	545	613	621

Standard Form 300

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

Program and Financing (in millions)			
Identification code 14-1618-0-1-302	**2014 Actual**	**2015 Enacted**	**2016 Request**
Change in obligated balance:			
Obligated balance, start of year (net):			
3000 Unpaid obligations, brought forward, Oct. 1 (gross)	29	21	15
3010 Obligations incurred, unexpired accounts	52	80	90
3020 Outlays, gross (-)	-59	-85	-91
3040 Recoveries of prior year unpaid obligations (-)	-1	-1	-1
Obligated balance, end of year (net):			
3050 Unpaid obligations, end of year (gross)	21	15	13
3200 Obligated balance, end of year (net)	21	15	13
Budget authority and outlays, net:			
Discretionary:			
4000 Budget authority, gross	6	8	9
Outlays, gross			
4010 Outlays from new discretionary authority	3	6	6
4011 Outlays from discretionary balances	3	2	2
4020 Outlays, gross (total)	6	8	8
Mandatory:			
4090 Budget authority, gross	59	145	94
Outlays, gross			
4100 Outlays from new mandatory authority	0	14	9
4101 Outlays from mandatory balances	53	63	74
4110 Outlays, gross (total)	53	77	83
Net budget authority and outlays:			
4180 Budget authority	65	153	103
4190 Outlays	59	85	91
Investments in U.S. securities			
5000 Total investments, start of year U.S. securities, par value	485	497	580
5001 Total investments, end of year U.S. securities, par value	497	580	640

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

Program and Financing (in millions)

Identification code 14-1618-0-1-302	2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Request
DIRECT OBLIGATIONS			
Personnel compensation:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	1	2	2
11.9 Total personnel compensation	1	2	2
12.1 Civilian personnel benefits	0	0	0
25.3 Purchases of goods & services from other govt. accts	7	15	8
42.0 Insurance claims and indemnities	11	15	22
99.0 Subtotal, direct obligations	19	32	32
ALLOCATION ACCOUNTS			
Personnel compensation:			
11.1 Full-time permanent	8	8	9
11.3 Other than full-time permanent	2	3	3
11.9 Total personnel compensation	10	11	12
12.1 Civilian personnel benefits	3	3	4
21.0 Travel and transportation of persons	1	1	1
25.2 Other services	7	16	14
25.3 Purchases of goods & services from other govt. accts	2	2	3
26.0 Supplies and materials	1	1	1
31.0 Equipment	1	1	1
32.0 Land and structures	0	3	7
41.0 Grants	7	10	14
99.0 Subtotal obligations - Allocation Accounts	32	48	57
99.5 Below reporting Threshold	1	0	1
99.9 Total new obligations	52	80	90

Standard Form 300

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

Program and Financing (in millions)

Identification code 14-1618-0-1-302	2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Request
Obligations are distributed as follows:			
Natural Resource Damage Assessment Program Office	19	32	32
Bureau of Indian Affairs	1	1	1
Bureau of Land Management	0	1	1
Bureau of Reclamation	0	0	0
Fish and Wildlife Service	22	34	44
National Park Service	4	7	7
Office of the Secretary	1	1	1
U.S. Geological Survey	5	4	4
99.9 Total new obligations	52	80	90

Personnel Summary

Identification code 14-1618-0-1-302	2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Request
Direct:			
Total compensable workyears:			
1001 Full-time equivalent employment *	9	14	19

* The 2015 and 2016 FTE for the NRDA Program is updated from the estimates included in the *Appendix, Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2016*.

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

	2014 Actual	2015 Enacted	2016 Request
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	3	3
GS/GM-13	4	4	5
GS-12	1	4	5
GS-11	1	2	4
GS-10	0	0	0
GS-9	1	0	1
GS-8	0	0	0
GS-7	0	0	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)	10	14	19
Total employment (actual / projected) at end of fiscal year	11	15	20

*CA - DOI Board Member
**AL - Administrative Law Judge
***SL - Senior-Level / Scientific Professionals