

ENVIRONMENT

Over the last three decades, our Nation has made great progress in providing for a better environment and improving public health. In that time, our economy has grown 186%, our population has grown 39%, and our energy consumption has increased 42%, yet air pollution from the six major pollutants has decreased by 48%. The President is committed to delivering even greater progress, and his 2005 Budget reflects that commitment with increased funding for cleaning up and restoring our lands, improving our water quality, protecting wildlife, preserving and improving our National Park facilities, and broadening our domestic energy options in an environmentally responsible manner.

Since 2001, President Bush has:

- Increased funding for EPA's Operating Program, which consists of EPA's core regulatory, research, enforcement activities, and State program grants, to the highest level in the agency's history;
- Met a 2000 campaign commitment and signed the brownfields law to substantially expand funding for the clean-up and redevelopment of industrial brownfields, which will boost local economies by revitalizing urban areas and creating jobs;
- Provided an 87% increase in farm bill conservation funding to assist private landowners and agricultural producers with restoring, protecting, and enhancing natural resources on their lands;
- Began a Hydrogen Fuel Initiative to develop the technologies to produce, store, and distribute hydrogen for use in fuel-cell vehicles, electricity generation, and other applications. Hydrogen-powered fuel cells will be able to power cars, trucks, homes, and businesses while producing virtually no pollution or greenhouse gases;
- Introduced a Clear Skies Initiative to cut power plant pollution by 70%, and implemented a Clean Air Interstate rule and new regulations on diesel engines and fuel to help the Nation meet new stringent, health-based air quality standards;
- Provided roughly four times more funding to help prevent catastrophic forest fires and restore our forests and grasslands to their more natural conditions and beauty; and
- Increased the investment in park facilities and roads by 37%. This includes a \$77 million increase over 2004 alone, and keeps the Administration on track to meet the President's funding commitment of \$4.9 billion over five years to reduce the backlog of national park facility maintenance and construction projects.

The President's 2005 Budget proposes \$46.9 billion for high-priority environment and natural resource programs, the highest level ever requested by a President. It includes:

- \$210 million, a \$40 million (24%) increase over the 2004 enacted level, to continue the President's commitment to accelerate the clean-up and redevelopment of our Nation's brownfields, revitalizing neighborhoods, and stimulating local economies. The President recognizes that clean-up and

management of hazardous waste and abandoned industrial sites (brownfields) can provide significant economic, environmental, and public health benefits to communities (EPA);

- \$1.4 billion for the Superfund, a \$124 million (10%) increase over the 2004 enacted level. Within Superfund, the President requested a 48% increase over the 2004 enacted level for the remedial program, the primary program for long-term clean up. This increase will allow 8-12 additional construction starts in 2005 and a similar number of completions by 2006 (EPA);
- Funding for the President's Clear Skies Initiative to cut power plant pollution by 70%, the Clean Air Interstate rule, and the Administration's new regulations on diesel engines and fuel to help the Nation meet new stringent, health-based air quality standards (EPA);
- For the first time in history, America has reversed the annual net loss of wetlands on our farms and overall we are nearing the national goal of "no net loss" of wetlands. On Earth Day 2004, the President announced a new Wetlands Initiative and a new policy of having an overall increase of wetlands with a goal of restoring, improving, and protecting at least three million acres of wetlands over the next five years. The President's 2005 Budget requests more than \$4 billion for conservation programs that include wetlands that will help achieve this goal;
- More than \$7.4 billion for DOE's Environmental Management program – the most funding ever for this program – to clean up contamination resulting from over 50 years of nuclear weapons production and nuclear energy research;
- A significant expansion of the Clean School Bus USA program that will reduce harmful bus emissions and help protect human health in a way that promotes local solutions to air quality problems. Funding for this program will be increased from \$5 million to \$65 million (EPA);
- An unprecedented \$45 million for Great Lakes clean-up to keep the Administration's commitment to the health and well-being of the Great Lakes basin – nearly a five-fold increase over previous funding levels that will allow EPA, with Great Lakes community partners, to start remedial action at six sites. The Budget also seeks additional funding for research into the control of invasive species in this region (EPA);
- A new \$20 million program to improve water quality monitoring so that EPA can make a national assessment of water quality. This will aid in prioritizing and evaluating current programs that help provide cleaner water to Americans and wildlife (EPA);
- An unprecedented \$10 million to fund a regional pilot program that will help reduce nutrient discharges into the Chesapeake Bay. The regional pilot funding is part of the President's Budget request of \$25 million for watershed initiatives (EPA);
- A total of over \$3.9 billion for USDA to deliver conservation programs authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill. This is an increase of over \$300 million from the 2004 Omnibus Appropriations Act. USDA's principal conservation agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, works at the local level alongside State governments and local conservation districts to assist agricultural producers and landowners with identifying and addressing natural resource concerns on their operations and lands;

- A more than 400% increase in funding (for a total of \$209 million) for the new Conservation Security Program (CSP). The CSP is a new resource conservation program first implemented by USDA in FY 2004. The program recognizes and focuses on the Nation's best conservation stewards and will provide them with both assistance to maintain their existing high levels of resource protection and strong incentives to achieve additional conservation. By recognizing effective conservation stewards, USDA will have a new tool to motivate and reward more producers to achieve a greater degree of natural resource protection and enhancement (USDA);
- \$760 million to continue implementation of the Healthy Forests Initiative. The request funds activities that advance the goals of the Healthy Forests Initiative, including activities authorized under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act that will improve forest and rangeland management, restore lands to their more natural conditions and beauty, and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires;
- \$1.1 billion for National Parks facilities and roads, a \$77 million increase over last year, and the establishment of specific goals to improve and return to good order priority National Park Service buildings by 2006, and continues the commitment to complete the Natural Resource Challenge in our parks (Dept. of Interior);
- An \$80 million increase in discretionary funding for park operations, for a total increase of 20% during the first four Budgets of President Bush's Administration. The current request is 352% higher than operational funding in 1980 (Dept. of Interior);
- Continued commitments to provide \$900 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for programs that promote cooperative conservation – effective partnerships between Federal and State governments and local communities (Dept. of Interior/USDA);
- Support for new and continuing construction that offers maximum returns to the Nation. The Corps is committed to limiting adverse environmental impacts resulting from its projects. Concurrent and post-construction mitigation activities permit the Corps to offset damage to natural habitat while minimizing the impact on commercial navigation, flood damage reduction, and other water uses. The Budget also emphasizes essential maintenance and security activities at key Corps facilities by providing \$1.9 billion for those efforts;
- \$69 million to meet the habitat needs of three endangered species while meeting the needs of navigation, agricultural and recreation interests on the Missouri River. The Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Interior have succeeded in achieving a balance among interests on the river and resolving a key element of a 15-year-old conflict in the operating of the Missouri River through the issuance of a new Master Manual for the operation of the river. The Administration has already provided an additional \$23 million for this effort in FY 2004 (Army Corps of Engineers);
- \$408 million for ecosystem restoration, including significant funding for work in the Everglades and the Louisiana coast (Army Corps of Engineers);
- An additional \$19 million to expand climate observation capabilities to benefit public safety and economic growth as part of a two-year, \$103 million government-wide initiative to accelerate research and the deployment of new global observation technologies aimed at resolving critical

questions concerning the role of the carbon cycle, atmospheric aerosols, and oceans in climate change. This investment supports the Administration's newly released Climate Change Science Program (CCSP) Strategic Plan (Dept. of Commerce);

- \$100 million for the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund, a \$10 million increase over 2004. Restoration of endangered salmon is important for the environment, Native American communities, commercial and recreational fishermen, and the economic vitality of the Pacific Northwest. This Budget request also seeks more accountability in the use of these funds (Dept. of Commerce);
- Continued steps to improve effectiveness of management actions by NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service. With these improvements, NOAA expects to remove two fisheries from the list of those over-fished by the end of 2005, and 12 by the end of 2009 (Dept. of Commerce);
- \$228 million for the Hydrogen Fuel Initiative, a \$69 million increase over 2004 funding, to develop the technologies to produce, store, and distribute hydrogen for use in fuel-cell vehicles, electricity generation, and other applications. Hydrogen-powered fuel cells will be able to power cars, trucks, homes, and businesses while producing virtually no pollution or greenhouse gases (Dept. of Energy);
- \$447 million for the President's Coal Research Initiative to improve the environmental performance of coal power plants by reducing emissions and improving efficiency. This includes \$237 million for the "FutureGen" coal-fired, zero-emissions electricity and hydrogen generation initiative announced by the President in February 2003 (Dept. of Energy); and
- Tax incentives consistent with the President's National Energy Policy totaling \$4.1 billion through 2009 to spur the use of clean, renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies, such as hybrid and fuel-cell vehicles, residential solar heating systems, renewable energy produced from landfill gas, wind or biomass, and efficient combined heat and power systems (Dept. of Energy).

For Other Information About the President's Accomplishments and Proposals:

FY 2005 Budget

Army Corps of Engineers: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2005/corps.html>

Environmental Protection Agency: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2005/epa.html>

Department of Interior: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2005/interior.html>

Department of Agriculture: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2005/agriculture.html>

Department of Commerce: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2005/commerce.html>

Department of Energy: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2005/energy.html>

Clean Diesel

Environmental Protection Agency: <http://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/>

Clear Skies

Environmental Protection Agency: <http://www.epa.gov/clearskies/>

Environment

The White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/environment/>

Everglades

The White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/everglades/>

Healthy Forests

The White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/healthyforests/>

Illegal Logging

The White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/illegal-logging/>