

FY 2012 Appropriations for USGS Programs

[USGS FY12 Budget Request](#)

(numbers are in millions)

USGS	FY 2010 Final	President's FY 2011 Request	FY 2012 Request	% Change FY 2010 vs FY 2012
Water Resources Investigations	232.3	228.8	207.9	-10.5%
Global Change	58.2	72.1	67.7	16.3%
Regional Climate Science Centers	15.1	15.1	25.6	69.5%
Total USGS	1,111.7	1,134.4	1,117.9	0.5%

Lewis-Burke Associates Analysis of President's FY 2012 Request:

Within the Department of Interior (DOI), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) received \$1.118 billion in the President's FY 2012 budget request, \$6.0 million (0.5 percent) above the FY 2010 enacted level. As part of a larger effort to reshape the way USGS conducts its scientific enterprise, the President's FY 2012 budget request would change the structure of the USGS budget, moving USGS away from traditional disciplines and towards six USGS science strategies:

Ecosystems; Climate and Land Use Change; Energy, Minerals, and Environmental Health; Natural Hazards; Water Resources; and Core Science Systems.

Additionally, the President's budget request would create a separate account within the USGS budget for the National Land Imaging Program, reflecting USGS' assumed responsibility for the Landsat Satellite Program. Not surprisingly, the request reduces funding in a number of activity areas but increases funding for Administration's priorities such as climate science and renewable energy development. Of particular note, however, is the Water Resources Research Act Program, which funds Water Resources Research Institutes. This program would receive no funding under the President's FY 2012 budget request, a \$6.5 million decrease from FY 2010 levels.

Initiatives

New Energy Frontier Initiative

The FY 2012 budget request would provide \$6.6 million, an increase of \$3.0 million (83 percent) above the FY 2010 enacted levels, for the Department-wide initiative which features collaborations between DOI bureaus to assess permitting, implementation, and operation of wind power generation facilities on public lands.

Cooperative Landscape Conservation

The FY 2012 budget request would provide \$72.9 million for Department efforts to develop adaptation strategies for climate related changes to public lands. To support the Department's work, USGS would shift \$9.0 million away from the Climate Effects Network (CEN), a consortium of observation and research programs that shares climate change data, to complete the establishment of

Climate Science Centers which will provide a scientific base for land and water management decisions related to climate change.

WaterSMART Program

USGS would receive \$10.9 million for activities in the WaterSMART initiative to implement the WaterSMART Availability and Use Assessment, which is part of DOI's sustainable water strategy. The requested funding level represents an increase of \$9.0 million from the FY 2010 enacted level. The WaterSMART Availability and Use Assessment activity involves conducting comprehensive water supply and demand inventories to assist with the development of sustainable water supplies.

Youth in Natural Resources Initiative

The Youth in Natural Resources Initiative, which helps connect youth with nature through education and employment opportunities, would receive \$3.4 million in the President's budget request, a loss of \$1.6 million from the FY 2010 enacted level. As a result of the reduced funding, USGS expects fewer educational and training opportunities for high school and college students would be available.

Ecosystems

The President's budget would provide \$166.4 million for the new Ecosystems activity area, an increase of \$836,000 (0.5 percent) over the FY 2010 enacted level. The Ecosystems activity area would support USGS research and monitoring of ecosystems with an aim to improve the management of the Nation's resources and hazards and gain insight into ecosystems and their structure and function. In FY 2012, USGS seeks to focus on five priority ecosystems including the Great Lakes, the Everglades, and the Chesapeake Bay.

Climate and Land Use Change

The FY 2012 budget request would provide \$106.4 million for the new Climate and Land Use Change activity area, a decrease of \$31.6 million (22.9 percent). The Activity area is separated into two sections: Climate Variability and Land Use Change, and seeks to provide scientific information to facilitate adaptation strategies for various affected landscapes. Within the Climate Variability area the President's budget request provides \$11.0 million for DOI Climate Science Centers which would provide the scientific base for land and water management decisions related to changing climates. The Land Use Change area would receive \$33.5 million dollars in the FY 2012 budget request including \$250,000 for a Multi-Hazards Initiative.

Energy, Minerals, and Environmental Health

The Energy, Minerals, and Environmental Health activity area would receive \$88.5 million under the FY 2012 budget request, a reduction of 13.2 percent or \$12.9 million. The activity area supports USGS efforts to assess the location, quantity and quality of the Nation's minerals and energy resources. Additionally, Energy, Minerals, and Environmental Health activities support research activities which address the environmental impact of humans.

Natural Hazards

The Natural Hazards activity area would receive \$133.9 million in the President's FY 2012 budget request, a loss of \$5.08 million (3.6 percent). The Natural Hazards area includes the Earthquakes Hazards Program and the Global Seismographic Network. In the FY 2012 budget request, funding for earthquake hazards would be reduced by \$4.70 million from FY 2010 enacted levels, a decrease of 8.2 percent. Additionally, earthquake grants would also lose \$2.0 million in funding in the budget

request. Furthermore, the Global Seismographic Network would suffer a 7.7 percent loss of \$446,000 under the budget request. The volcano hazards program would lose \$1.06 million but receive \$1.5 million for a multi-hazards initiative.

Water Resources

The Water Resources activity area of USGS would receive \$199.6 million in the FY 2012 budget request; a loss of \$21.6 million (9.7 percent). One of the largest losses sustained by the activity area is the zeroing out of funding for the Water Resources Research Act Program, which the President's budget request provides no funding for, a loss of \$6.5 million. Water Resources activities support the collection, management, and dissemination of hydrologic data.

Core Science Systems

The budget request for FY 2012 would include \$105.8 million for the Core Science Systems activity area. The Core Science Systems activity area would fund USGS efforts in biological information management and delivery and the National Geospatial Program. The FY 2012 budget request would completely strip funds from the National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation Program, a loss of \$1.0 million dollars. In the Core Science Systems area the FY 2012 budget would provide \$500,000 in WaterSMART grants as well as \$800,000 for ecosystem restoration projects on the Columbia River and Puget Sound.

National Land Imaging

The FY 2012 budget request would provide USGS with \$99.8 million in a new account for the National Land Imaging Program, an increase of \$59.6 million from FY 2010 enacted levels. Within the new account, the FY 2012 budget would provide \$13.4 million for Landsat 8 operations and \$48.0 million for Landsat 9 planning activities with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Facilities

The President's FY 2012 budget request would provide \$100.8 million for facilities, a decrease of \$5.6 million (5.3 percent).