

FY 2013 Appropriations for USGS Programs

USGS FY13 Budget Request

(numbers are in millions)

USGS	FY 2012 Estimate	FY 2013 Request	% Change
Water Resources	214.6	209.8	-2.2%
Climate & Land Use Change	144.1	153.7	6.7%
Climate Variability	58.9	67.7	14.9%
Climate Science Centers		26.2	
Total USGS	1,068.0	1,102.0	3.2%

Lewis-Burke Associates Analysis of President's FY 2013 Request:

The President's FY 2013 budget request would provide \$1.103 billion for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), an increase of \$34.5 million, or 3.2 percent, over the FY 2012 enacted level.

- Though USGS plays a critical role as the Department of the Interior's (DOI) scientific research arm, it has had relatively level funding for well over a decade. Recently, numerous natural disasters and potential shortages of rare earth minerals have raised the importance of USGS's research mission. However, the President's request for USGS is below the FY 2012 requested level.
- Reflecting world events, the Natural Hazards account would receive a 7.7 percent increase, which would include a 6.9 percent gain for Earthquake Hazards. In total, every account except Water Resources and Facilities would receive an increase. As in past requests, the FY 2013 request would zero out the *Water Resources Research Act* funding which supports Water Resource Research Institutes (WRI).

New and Signature Initiatives

As in past budget requests, the President's FY 2013 request seeks to sustain funding for USGS's existing initiatives. The request would provide increased funding of approximately \$73.2 million spread across the New Energy Frontier, WaterSMART, Cooperative Landscape Conservation, Youth in the Great Outdoors, Ecosystem Priorities, Rapid Disaster Response, and Science for Coastal and Ocean Stewardship programs.

Proposed Reductions and Terminations

Similar to the FY 2012 President's budget request, the FY 2013 request would eliminate funding for the *Water Resources Research Act* programs which support the Water Resources Research

Institutes. However, Congress has traditionally sustained these funds due to the local value of the water research the Institutes support.

Though the USGS budget request in FY 2012 proposed creating a new account to handle the finances associated with USGS **Landsat** satellite missions, no such proposal is included in the FY 2013 budget request. USGS states that it will continue to work with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to develop cost-effective land-sensing capabilities.

Ongoing Areas of Interest

For FY 2013, the President's budget request is organized around six scientific thrusts, which have prioritized the following research areas.

1. The **Natural Hazards** area would prioritize research focused on effects of the 2011 earthquake in Mineral, Virginia.
2. The **Ecosystem** area remains focused on supporting research in at-risk ecosystems across the nation. Specific ecosystem research programs are focused on invasive species like Asian Carp, brown tree snakes, and white-nose syndrome in bats.
3. The **Climate and Land Use Change** area would focus on activities that advance national understanding of the physical, chemical, and biological components of the Earth system, the causes and consequences of climate and land use change, and the vulnerability and resilience of the Earth system to these changes.
4. The **Energy, Minerals, and Environmental Health** area would pursue research related to locating rare earth minerals, which has become a top political priority given their relative shortage and importance to key high technology areas. USGS also plans to continue evaluating potential impacts to wildlife in connection with wind-energy development.
5. The **Water Resources** area would continue to emphasize hydrologic modeling as well as the impacts of wildfires and climate change on water resources.
6. The **Core Science Systems** continues to prioritize data preservation related to the USGS mission.

Additional Resources: The USGS FY 2013 Greenbook can be viewed at <http://www.usgs.gov/budget/2013/2013index.asp>