



## Senate Offers Modest Increase to USGS R&D

### AAAS R&D Funding Update on R&D in Senate FY 2006 Interior Appropriations

#### Highlights

- The Senate Appropriations Committee would keep R&D in the Department of the Interior at this year's funding level in FY 2006 with a minute 0.2 percent increase to \$616 million, roughly in line with the House's proposal (see Table).

- Both the House and the Senate **would reverse proposed cuts to R&D in the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The Senate would provide an increase of \$9 million or 1.7 percent to \$550 million.** Both the House and Senate would reverse proposed cuts to the USGS mineral resources R&D program.

#### USGS R&D in FY 2006 Senate Appropriations

On June 9, the Senate Appropriations Committee kicked off its FY 2006 appropriations process by debating and approving its version of the FY 2006 Interior and Environment appropriations bill (HR 2361), the first of 12 appropriations bills. The bill funds most of the Department of the Interior as well as the Smithsonian Institution, the Forest Service, and for the first time the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). On May 19, the full House of Representatives approved its own version of the bill. **The Senate Interior/Environment bill would provide \$616 million for Interior R&D in FY 2006, barely an increase of \$1 million** above FY 2005 after a similarly flat House appropriation; both would stand in sharp contrast to a cut of 6 percent contained in Interior's February budget request (see Table).

The Department of the Interior manages most of the publicly owned lands in the United States, from the national park system to Indian lands to publicly owned mines. The **U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)** is the primary sponsor of R&D in Interior. USGS is one of the leading federal sponsors of earth sciences research, along with the Department of Energy, the National Science Foundation, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Within the earth sciences, USGS is particularly important in geological hazards research, including research on earthquakes and volcanoes. USGS is also a leading sponsor of water resources research and biological research.

In the FY 2006 budget request released in February, the Bush Administration requested \$934 million for the USGS total budget in FY 2006, \$2 million or 0.2 percent less than this year (see Table). The House would appropriate \$975 million for USGS in FY 2006, 4.1 percent or \$38 million more than this year and a similar amount over the request. Now the Senate has followed with a \$963 million appropriation.

R&D accounts for nearly two-thirds of the USGS budget, with the remainder going to non-R&D activities such as environmental data collection, mapping, and natural hazards reduction. Both the **House and the Senate would provide a modest boost for USGS R&D in FY 2006, in the Senate a small increase of 1.7 percent to \$550 million (see Table), in contrast to a proposed cut of 4.8 percent in the request.** The budget requested particularly steep cuts in the USGS Geology Division, but the Senate would provide each of the four USGS divisions with an increase. The House appropriation would be similar. (For details of the President's request for Interior R&D, please see Chapter 13 of *AAAS Report XXX: R&D FY 2006* or the March 2 Interior R&D Funding Update. For details of House appropriations for Interior, see the May 12 AAAS R&D Funding Update.)

R&D in the Geologic Hazards, Resources, and Processes Division would increase \$2 million or 1.1 percent to \$208 million in the Senate plan, in a sharp turnaround from a requested cut of 13 percent. USGS

---

proposed to cut the \$54 million mineral resources R&D program in half to \$25 million in FY 2006, in a repeat of similar requests in past years. But just as they have in the past two years, the House and Senate disagree strongly with the proposal and would add back almost \$30 million in funding. Both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees disagree strongly with USGS' rationale that minerals research could be funded by the private sector, and reaffirm the federal role in minerals research.

In another earth sciences-related division, Mapping and Geography R&D would increase \$3 million to \$39 million in the Senate plan, but this would only restore funding to the 2004 level after a cut in 2005. The ups and downs in this division are in the land remote sensing programs, which operate satellites but also fund R&D on data retrieval, archiving, processing, and imaging.

**In water resources R&D, both the House and the Senate would keep funding flat, in the Senate at \$128 million, in contrast to a requested cut.** Both chambers reject the USGS proposal to eliminate the water resources research institutes program and would instead provide \$6.5 million, slightly above this year's funding level. Other water programs would be funded at or slightly below this year's levels. Funding for the **Toxic Substances Hydrology Program** would rise slightly in the Senate bill to \$14.6 million. The program is a collaborative effort of USGS scientists, university and private-sector researchers, and state, local, and other federal agency scientists to conduct long-term research on water resource contamination in surface and groundwater environments. There would be a slight increase for the **National Water Quality Assessment Program (NAWQA)** to \$63 million in both the House and the Senate to bring it back to last year's funding level. NAWQA is charged with monitoring the nation's water quality, and its data are used by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and many state regulatory agencies. Similarly, R&D in the **Cooperative Water Program** would stay even at last year's funding level of \$64 million in the House and Senate bills after a cut in the 2005 budget.

Both the House and the Senate would provide a small boost to USGS biological research programs, to \$174 million in the Senate (up 1.3 percent).

### **Other Interior Agencies**

Although USGS is the primary science agency in Interior, four other Interior bureaus also fund R&D (see Table). These include funds for minerals and mining research in the Minerals and Management Service (MMS), wildfire prevention research in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), water resources research in the Bureau of Reclamation, and R&D for the Florida Everglades restoration project in the National Park Service. Both chambers would go along with the President's request for these R&D programs.

The Interior/Environment bill now goes to the full Senate for expected approval. After that, a conference committee will negotiate a final Interior/Environment bill. Because House and Senate proposals for USGS are so similar, USGS is almost certain to receive a modest increase in the final Interior appropriation.

(This analysis is one of a series of AAAS R&D Funding Updates on FY 2006 congressional appropriations. The complete series of AAAS R&D Funding Updates, including continually updated analyses of R&D in FY 2006 appropriations, is available on the AAAS R&D Web Site (<http://www.aaas.org/spp/rd>) in the "FY 2006 R&D" or the "What's New" sections.)

-June 17, 2005  
AAAS R&D Budget and Policy Program  
1200 New York Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
(202) 326-6607  
AAAS R&D Web site: <http://www.aaas.org/spp/rd>



Table. Dept. of the Interior R&amp;D in FY 2006 Senate Appropriations

**Table. Department of the Interior  
Senate Appropriations Committee Action on R&D in the FY 2006 Budget  
(budget authority in millions of dollars)**

	FY 2005 Estimate	FY 2006 Request	FY 2006 House	FY 2006 Senate	Senate Action			
					Chg. from Request Amount	Percent	Chg. from FY 2005 Amount	Percent
U.S. Geological Survey:								
Surveys, Investigations, and Research (SIR):								
National Mapping	36	43	41	<b>39</b>	-5	-10.5%	3	8.9%
Geologic Resources	206	179	210	<b>208</b>	29	16.2%	2	1.1%
Water Resources	126	119	126	<b>128</b>	9	7.6%	2	1.5%
Biological Research	172	173	175	<b>174</b>	1	0.8%	2	1.3%
Enterprise Information 1/	2	1	1	<b>1</b>	0	17.8%	0	-9.7%
<b>Total USGS R&amp;D</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>6.8%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1.7%</b>
<i>(USGS Non-R&amp;D SIR Activities)</i>	<i>395</i>	<i>418</i>	<i>421</i>	<i>413</i>	<i>-6</i>	<i>-1.3%</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>4.4%</i>
<i>(Total USGS SIR Budget)</i>	<i>936</i>	<i>934</i>	<i>975</i>	<i>963</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>3.2%</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>2.8%</i>
Bureau of Reclamation 2/	17	10	10	<b>10</b>	0	0.0%	-7	-41.2%
National Park Service	14	14	14	<b>14</b>	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Bureau of Land Management	12	14	14	<b>14</b>	0	0.0%	2	16.7%
Minerals Management Service	31	28	28	<b>28</b>	0	0.0%	-3	-9.7%
<b>Total Interior R&amp;D</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.2%</b>

AAAS estimates based on FY 2005 and FY 2006 appropriations bills. Includes conduct of R&D and R&D facilities.

FY 2005 and FY 2006 request figures based on OMB R&D data and supplemental agency budget data.

Figures are rounded to the nearest million. Changes calculated from unrounded figures.

1/ Transfers of IT-related programs from other accounts beginning in FY 2005.

2/ Funded in the Energy-Water bill, which has not yet been drafted by the Senate. FY 2006 figures are the President's request.

**June 17, 2005 - AAAS estimates of Senate Appropriations Committee-approved bills.**

**These figures may be amended or rejected by the full Senate.**