

# **Green Investments:**

*The Impacts of Budget Cuts to Protecting Communities and the Environment,*

*And the Need for Reinvestment in FY16*

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## INTRODUCTION

*Green Investments* highlights the need for Congress and the Administration to provide proper funding for communities and the environment. For years, deficient agency budgets have led to staff reductions, inadequate scientific research and monitoring, compromised conservation and management actions, growing maintenance backlogs, reduced visitor services and recreational investments, and other impacts. The damaging Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) across-the-board “sequester” cuts and continued austere funding since have enhanced that challenge substantially.

Discretionary spending has been reduced for years as a percentage of the economy; by 2023, discretionary spending is projected to reach its lowest percentage of GDP in decades. In part due to those disproportionate reductions, funding for environmental programs has failed to keep up with needs over the last several years.

American communities deserve restoring environmental budgets to protect public health, and so that the environment we leave our children is not significantly worse than what our parents left us. **Congress and the Administration must work together to prevent another sequester in FY16, which would unrealistically constrain appropriators from making needed investments. Even flat budgeting would fail to meet long-festering needs.**

The environmental programs outlined in this report are by no means a comprehensive collection of the many that warrant reinvestment after years of declining funding. Rather, they constitute a broad and representative sample, assembled by numerous groups, that demonstrates the harm of recent cuts, the broader impact of years of underfunding, and the value of reinvestment in FY16 and beyond.

In total, these programs amount to a very small portion of the federal budget and thus a very small percentage of the average American family’s tax expenditures, yet they offer valuable and popular benefits: clean air for children to breathe, clean water for families to drink, healthy public lands for recreation, vibrant wildlife populations, clean oceans to support healthy fisheries, preserved heritage for future generations, and a renewable energy future that powers a clean, sustainable economy and creates high quality American jobs that cannot be exported.

In addition to important domestic investments, the federal budget includes critical international funding for biodiversity, conservation, and climate change. Each plays an important role in sustaining the societies, economies and ecological systems to which we are inextricably linked. Many US agencies have taken a leadership role to help developing countries combat illegal trade, protect natural capital, and promote strong and sustainable economic development. Continuing and expanding these efforts will be essential to meeting the challenges of the future.

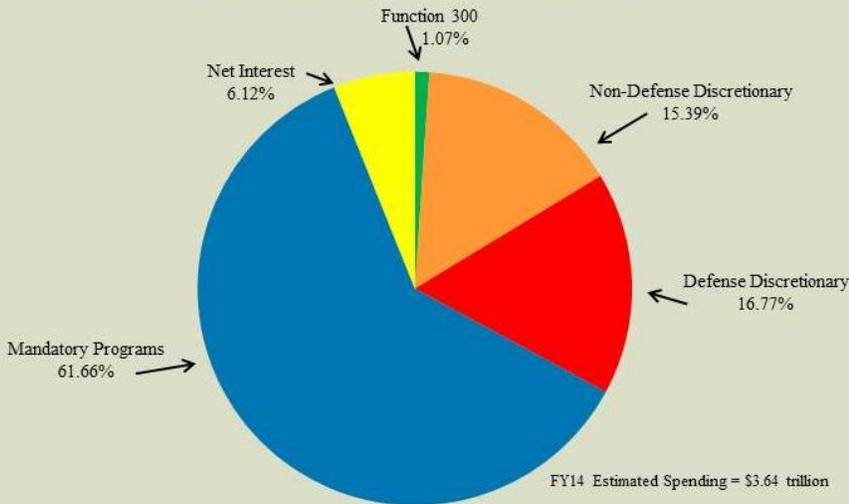
**The contributors to this report urge Congress and the President to end the damaging sequester and ask appropriators to provide an investment in natural resources and the environment that is improved over prior-year levels, since much work remains to get back on track.**

Without a sufficient investment in the relevant “302(b)” suballocations for environmental programs, it will be difficult to impossible for agencies to recover from years of cuts, as well as the larger reality of declining working funds that result from agencies’ inability to keep up with inflation and fixed costs including deteriorating equipment and facilities, staff salaries, rent, and utilities.

# Natural Resources and Environment Spending Just 1% of Federal Budget

Federal spending on domestic land, water, ocean, fish and wildlife programs comprises only 1.07% of the federal budget.

FY14 Percent of Federal Budget by Category



Reference: Function 300 includes programs whose primary purpose is concerned with environmental protection and enhancement; recreation and wildlife areas; and the development and management of the nation's land, water and mineral resources. The data provided is an estimate of the FY14 funding level.

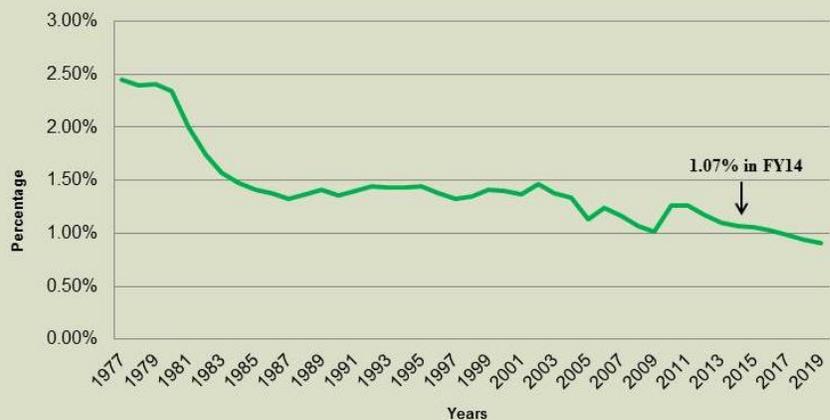
Source for all data is from the Office of Management & Budget's Historical Table 3.2, 8.5, and 8.7.

Investments in these programs are not even a minor contributor to the national debt given their scarce funding and their invaluable contribution to the economy by enhancing the multibillion-dollar recreational industry, by reducing health care costs through enhancing public health, and by ensuring ecosystem services that reduce the costs associated with resource damage.

As illustrated in this chart, the primary environmental budget category, Function 300, has been steadily declining for decades as a percentage of the total federal budget. This translates to tangible program shortfalls for the agencies tasked with safeguarding our environment.

## Natural Resource Cuts Will Not Resolve Our Federal Deficit

Function 300 Spending as a Percent of Overall Budget (FY77 -19)



Reference: Source for all data is from the Office of Management & Budget's Historical Table 3.2, "Outlays by Function and SubFunction". The data provided is an estimate of the FY14 funding level.

## LANDS

Investments in our public lands have incredible benefits for recreation and public health, the protection of wildlife and ecosystem services, local economies that benefit from recreational tourism, and the larger national economy. For example, over 66 million Americans – one in six – depend on national forests for their water supplies. This represents only a small sliver of the estimated \$1.6 trillion in ecosystem services provided by public lands and other habitat in the contiguous 48 states each year.

Public lands are a central component of outdoor recreation that bolsters the outdoor industry. The industry supports 6.1 million American jobs, \$646 billion in outdoor recreation spending each year, \$40 billion in federal tax revenue, and \$40 billion in state/local tax revenue. To put that in perspective, this significantly outpaces annual consumer spending on pharmaceuticals (\$331 billion), gasoline and other fuels (\$354 billion) and motor vehicles and parts (\$340 billion).

### **Bureau of Land Management**

#### ***Value of Investing:***

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands are America's backyard: nearly 60 million Americans, more than one in six, live within 25 miles of these public lands. They provide outstanding opportunities for outdoor recreation including hunting, angling and wildlife viewing, protect priceless cultural and historic resources, and promote 21<sup>st</sup> century conservation through innovative and collaborative scientific research. The National Conservation Lands, which represent the crown jewels of BLM lands, comprise only 1/10<sup>th</sup> of BLM's total estate. However, they receive over 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the annual visitors and create or sustain over 20,000 jobs annually, all while receiving less than \$2.50 per acre in federal funding.

#### ***Impacts of Cuts:***

The BLM has faced repeated budget cuts over several years, placing significant strains on every aspect of day-to-day operations. Vacant positions are left unfilled, the bureau is hiring fewer part-time and seasonal personnel, science grants are being cut, Resource Advisory Councils—which provide public input into land use planning and management—are canceling their meetings, and even volunteer efforts are being undermined. Examples of the direct impacts of budget cuts include:

1. **Joshua Tree Forest:** Since 2011, BLM has reduced its staff for the Grapevine Mesa Joshua Tree Forest from 4 full time employees to 1. This one employee is often overwhelmed by office work, leaving no one in the BLM field office dedicated and focused on conservation. As a direct result of this lack of BLM capacity, a road improvement project which had been mapped and approved in an Environmental Assessment (EA) to avoid Joshua Trees was bulldozed through thousands of ancient trees. No BLM staff were on site to oversee the road construction even though this was required by the EA.
2. **Southeast Arizona:** The BLM has been unable to fill positions in several key areas. The San Pedro Project Office and Tucson Field Office (TFO) staff are working on a Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA). This is a huge priority and a significant burden on staff

resources. The routine duties of these staff members were to be handled by new hires --- some temporary or term positions --- but BLM cannot find the budget for most of these positions, so regular staff have double the workload. As a result basic tasks like resource monitoring and analysis are often delayed, postponed or cancelled. BLM has temporarily filled the position of San Pedro Riparian NCA Manager to replace the prior Manager, however the position will again become vacant at the end of February without additional funding. Las Cienegas NCA currently does not have a Manager, which means Field Managers are doing several jobs on top of the additional responsibilities associated with finalizing a RMP.

For more information [go here](#), or contact Cameron Witten, Government Relations Associate, The Wilderness Society at [cameron\\_witten@twc.org](mailto:cameron_witten@twc.org) or 202-429-8458.

## **National Park Service**

### ***Value of Investing:***

Areas protected by the National Park Service preserve our natural and cultural heritage and support a robust tourism economy: they comprise [a third of the top 25](#) tourism destinations. [Bipartisan polling](#) shows 9 out of 10 American voters irrespective of political leaning do not want park funding cut further. [Every dollar invested](#) in national parks supports ten dollars in economic activity, and national parks support more than \$27 billion in economic activity and over 237,000 private-sector jobs annually.

### ***Impact of Cuts:***

There has been more than a seven percent, or \$173 million reduction in the account to operate national parks over the last five years in today's dollars. Over the last decade since 2005, the total budget for the National Park Service has declined by nearly a half billion dollars, or 22%, in today's dollars.

As a result of recent cuts, Park Service programs have been unable to keep up. Superintendents widely report long term staff losses, closed facilities, and the growth of the \$11.3 billion deferred maintenance backlog for lack of funds to perform cyclical maintenance. The upcoming 2016 Centennial of the National Park System will bring thousands of visitors to parks, but will the parks be ready for them with adequate facilities and sufficient rangers?

Examples of recent losses include:

1. **Zion National Park:** The only visitor contact point on the west side of Zion National Park and Interstate 15, Kolob Canyons Visitor Center, has limited hours and programming due to staffing shortages year-round. It also shares its only Law Enforcement Ranger position with Cedar Breaks National Monument.
2. **Mount Rainier National Park:** The central experience of a visit to this park is an encounter with the mountains. Unfortunately, the historic network of trails has gone years without critical assessments and routine maintenance. Hundreds of thousands of visitors walk these trails every year. To ensure visitor safety, the park needs \$9.5 million for trail upkeep.

For more information, go [here](#) or contact John Garder, Director of Budget and Appropriations, National Parks Conservation Association, [jgarder@npca.org](mailto:jgarder@npca.org) or (202) 454-3395.

## US Fish and Wildlife Service

### *Value of Investing:*

The National Wildlife Refuge System is the largest land and water system in the world dedicated to wildlife conservation, encompassing more than 150 million acres and protecting over 2,100 species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. In FY11, refuges were visited by more than 46.5 million wildlife people and [pumped \\$2.4 billion into local economies, supporting more than 35,000 jobs](#). There is a refuge in every state and within an hour's drive of most major American cities.

### *Impact of Cuts:*

A September 2013 [memorandum](#) from the System's Chief detailed significant damages from budget cuts and sequestration since FY10 with work in numerous areas declining dangerously. For example, wetland restoration has plummeted by 77 percent, restoration of forest habitat has declined by 51 percent, and even though more than 2.5 million acres of refuge lands are overrun by harmful invasive plants, acreage controlled has dropped by 60 percent. A subsequent memo described continued funding shortfalls and the FY15 funding level is nearly fifteen percent below the FY10 level adjusted for inflation. Below are some refuge specific examples of impacts:

- At **Hawaiian Islands NWR**, lack of staffing poses major entrapment hazards for wildlife including seas turtles, sea birds and the highly endangered monk seal, as well as an inability to keep building on decades of ongoing data collection and monitoring and to keep pace with removal of invasive weeds.
- In Alabama, **Choctaw NWR** will likely experience a drop of at least 80 percent in volunteer support due to loss of coordinating staff and **Bon Secour NWR** has already seen its annual volunteer contribution decline by about 2,000 hours, about \$44,000 in donated time.
- At **Aransas NWR** in Texas, a fishing pier os one of 12 public facilities shut down because loss of maintenance staff has left refuge staff unable to ensure the structure is safe.

For more information go [here](#) or contact Mary Beth Beetham at Defenders of Wildlife, [mbeetham@defenders.org](mailto:mbeetham@defenders.org), 202-772-0231 or Desiree Sorenson-Groves at the National Wildlife Refuge Association, [dgroves@refugeassociation.org](mailto:dgroves@refugeassociation.org), 202-292-3961.

## US Forest Service

### *Value of Investing:*

America's 193 million acres of national forests and grasslands are essential to our economic, ecological, and social well-being. The Forest Service is vital in managing the forests that provide public benefits and services such as clean air and water, energy and timber, carbon storage, wildlife habitat, and opportunities for outdoor recreation. These benefits also include jobs and economic activity, notably in rural areas where employment opportunities and economic growth are largely tied to the management of our natural resources. The National Forest System contributes over [\\$36 billion to the US gross domestic product, supporting 450,000 jobs](#) through the variety of activities that occur on the forests, from outdoor recreation, to forest products, to mineral and energy production and livestock grazing. Continued and

increased investment in the Forest Service is essential for America's social, economic, and ecological welfare.

***Impact of Cuts:***

The Forest Service's National Forest System, State and Private Forestry, and Research divisions have all endured deep cuts over the past years. In the National Forests, field offices are short staffed, underfunded and thus unable to complete the on-the-ground management that is required. Research is unable to continue to help manage our forests and communities are not receiving the technical assistance from State and Private Forestry that was once available to them. Examples of impacted programs include:

1. **Legacy Roads and Trails:** In its first five years Legacy Roads and Trails (LRT) has proven to be an extremely effective use of federal dollars and has dramatically improved water quality and access in our national forests. In FY14 alone LRT was slashed by \$10 million (22 percent). Every \$1 million dollars cut from LRT has significant impacts:
  - 656 acres of terrestrial habitat and 4 miles of stream habitat will not be restored.
  - 16 miles of unneeded roads will not be decommissioned resulting in continued sediment pollution running into streams
  - 45 miles of needed roads will not be maintained resulting in a loss of public access
  - 12 miles of trails will not be improved resulting in a loss in recreational access
  - Between 15-24 jobs in rural America improving our nation's water quality would be lost. (Estimates are based on the Legacy Roads and Trail Program's 5-year accomplishments as reported by the USFS and the \$270 million appropriated during this time.)
  
2. **Forest Health:** Since FY12, funding for FS State & Private Forestry programs targeting the emerald ash borer has fallen 78%. This means FS State & Private Forestry can no longer assist cities and states in deciding how best to manage widespread tree mortality and resulting threats to safety and ecosystem services.

*For more information contact Rebecca Turner, Senior Director of Programs & Policy, American Forests, [rturner@americanforests.org](mailto:rturner@americanforests.org) or 202-370-4521.*

## **CROSS-CUTTING LANDS ISSUES**

### **Wildfire Suppression Funding**

***Value of Investing:***

Wildfires response activities are funded differently from other natural emergencies, through the USDA Forest Service and Department of the Interior budgets. Properly and responsibly funding wildfire suppression activities would stabilize agency budgets by significantly minimizing the need to transfer from non-suppression funds when suppression resources expire. Reducing the need to transfer will allow

the agencies to accomplish their land management goals. The solution is to fund a portion of wildfire suppression through a budget cap adjustment similar to what FEMA uses for other disasters under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985. The House and Senate propose this approach in the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act (S. 235 and H.R. 167).

### ***Impacts of Cuts:***

Wildfire suppression funding continues to be a challenge for the USDA Forest Service and Department of the Interior. The ten-year rolling average used to estimate the funding needs of suppression has fallen short of actual suppression needs over the last several years. In FY2012 and FY 2013, the Forest Service and DOI had to transfer \$1 billion significant levels from non-suppression programs to fund suppression shortfalls. Transfers have occurred eight out of the last eleven years.

Of the \$636 million transfer in FY13, a total of \$45 million came out the National Forest System budget in FY13, taking funds away from programs like recreation and fish and wildlife habitat; \$12 million was taken from land acquisition and another \$12 million from state and private forestry, which halted land management projects from taking place. A total of \$30 million was transferred from Capital Improvement and Maintenance, affecting the roads and trails budgets which are already strained by a multi-billion dollar backlog.

Instead of repaying these transfers through an emergency supplemental, repayments come at the expense of other Interior programs in the following fiscal budget. For example, the FY14 omnibus repaid \$628.5 million of the FY13 repayments out of the FY14 budget allocation for Interior. This is not responsible budgeting. Agencies that respond to wildfires emergencies need stable budgets that are not subject to reallocation near the end of fiscal years. Programs impacted include the very ones that would reduce fire risk and future suppression costs.

*For more information, contact Cecelia Clavet, Senior Policy Advisor, The Nature Conservancy, at [cclavet@tnc.org](mailto:cclavet@tnc.org) or (703) 841-7425.*

## **Land and Water Conservation Fund**

### ***Value of Investing:***

Last year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Over its 50 years LWCF has successfully secured critical outdoor recreation access and protected some of our nation's most vital public lands. Land acquisition through LWCF dramatically improves the management efficiency of our public lands. Consolidation of ownership within our public lands eliminates the need to maintain costly road networks, reducing their impact on habitat and water quality, reduces the cost of fighting wildfires and frees up much needed law enforcement and monitoring resources. Land conservation also protects critical natural resources such as watersheds, drinking water supplies, riparian areas, and T&E species.

### ***Impacts of Cuts:***

The concept of reinvesting revenue gained from the depletion of one natural resource in the permanent conservation of another is as sound today as it was when LWCF was enacted 50 years ago. LWCF's true promise, however, has never been fully met. Over the life of the program, more than \$19 billion has been diverted from the LWCF trust fund, vanishing into the general revenue stream with no accountability on where the money was actually spent. Again this year, almost \$600 million—two thirds of what is deposited in the fund—was diverted away from LWCF, leaving hundreds of important projects on the table and leaving willing-seller landowners in the lurch. For example:

**Appalachian Trail (PA, NC, TN, VA, VT):** The National Trails system, which includes the iconic 2,180 mile-long Appalachian trail, offers the American public a tremendous variety of recreation, preservation, fitness, and heritage opportunities. LWCF plays an important role in protecting and enhancing these opportunities by funding conservation projects along the trail. Unfortunately, the National Trails System received only a small portion of the LWCF funding proposed for FY15, leaving trails such as the Pacific Crest Trail, Oregon National Historic Trail, Capt. John Smith National Historic Trail, the Ice Age Trail and the Ala Kahakai Trail vulnerable to agricultural conversion, commercial development, visual intrusion, and loss of public access.

**Forest Legacy Program in Michigan:** A recent change in ownership of a 1382 acre commercial forest property in the Pilgrim River watershed in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan offered an opportunity for a project supporting sustainable forestry, watershed protection, public recreation and education. The property includes over three miles of the Pilgrim River, including a good portion of the River's headwaters. The land is currently enrolled in the Michigan Commercial Forest program and is enjoyed by the public for hunting and fishing. The new owners support these goals for forestry, conservation and expanded public recreation and encourage the community to develop approaches to accomplish a project that permanently achieves these land uses. A conservation easement on the Pilgrim River Forest property through the Forest Legacy Program was proposed for funding in the FY 2014 President's budget. Unfortunately, the project was not funded due to the continued diversion of LWCF dollars, leaving this unique piece of contiguous wildlife habitat vulnerable to fragmentation and development.

*For more information [go here](#) or contact Kathy DeCoster, Vice President for Federal Affairs at the Trust for Public Land [Kathy.DeCoster@tpl.org](mailto:Kathy.DeCoster@tpl.org) or Amy Lindholm, Senior Specialist, Conservation Funding at the Wilderness Society [Amy.lindholm@twc.org](mailto:Amy.lindholm@twc.org)*

### **Public Lands Corps Program**

#### ***Value of Investing:***

Since its authorization in 1993, the Public Lands Corps program has enabled thousands of youth to participate in environmental conservation and stewardship projects on Department of the Interior and USDA Forest Service lands.

### ***Impacts of Cuts:***

According to research by The Corps Network, the FY13 Sequester was directly responsible for a major reduction in capacity and conservation project. Some Corps saw their membership and funding cut in half. This resulted in:

- 3,700 less Corps members working across America;
- 200,000 fewer trees planted;
- 116,000 fewer acres of wildfire fuel removed;
- 26,000 fewer acres of habitat restored; and
- 24,000 fewer acres of invasive species removed from our public lands.
- 2,600 fewer homes were weatherized or retrofit for increased efficiency.

The Corps Network is currently researching the continued impacts of sequestration. They expect to find similar reductions in conservation and capacity for subsequent fiscal years.

*For more information, contact Cameron Witten, Government Relations Associate, The Wilderness Society at [cameron\\_witten@twc.org](mailto:cameron_witten@twc.org) or 202-429-8458.*

## **WILDLIFE**

Protecting wildlife means also protecting its habitat that also safeguards the health of natural systems that [provide clean air and water, food, medicines, and other products that are required for the health of American families and communities](#). Federal programs that protect imperiled species, migratory birds, and habitat all are helping to ultimately ensure the health and well-being of the American people. Wildlife also makes an important economic contribution through wildlife-related recreation, [generating nearly \\$145 billion for local economies in 2011](#).

*Unless otherwise noted below, for more information on this section, please contact Mary Beth Beetham at Defenders of Wildlife, (202) 772-0231, [mbeetham@defenders.org](mailto:mbeetham@defenders.org).*

**US Fish and Wildlife Service:** The [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) (FWS) is the primary federal agency responsible for conserving wildlife and habitat both domestically and internationally. Below are examples of some FWS programs and the kinds of damage caused by funding cuts.

### **Endangered Species Program**

#### ***Value of Investing:***

[For more than 40 years, the Endangered Species Act has helped to prevent the extinction of our nation's wildlife treasures](#), including beloved symbols of America such as the bald eagle, the Florida manatee, and the California condor. [The Act also benefits people](#) by maintaining healthy natural systems as well as supporting a vibrant wildlife recreation industry that generates income and jobs for local economies.

### ***Impact of Cuts:***

The FWS [Endangered Species program](#) budget has suffered an 11.1 percent reduction in real dollars from FY10 to FY15. Continued cuts will further cripple its ability to save plants and animals from extinction:

- **Delay Recovery of Endangered Florida Manatees:** "Red tide" events in South Florida have resulted in the death of over 40 manatees and the die off of large sea grass bed areas. Funding cuts have prevented the FWS from restoring important sea grass feeding habitats affected by the die off, delaying the recovery of the Florida manatee. In general, overall funding for recovery is so inadequate that the FWS is only able to track the vast majority of listed species rather than take proactive recovery actions.
- **Hinder Gulf Coast Restoration:** Federal, state and local sponsors will soon submit billions of dollars in ecological and economic coastal restoration projects under the RESTORE Act and other Gulf funding mechanisms. With reduced staffing, the FWS will be unprepared to handle the workload associated with ESA Section 7 consultation reviews for these projects and also will not be able to provide sufficient oversight of ecosystem-based conservation design for the implementation of the billions of dollars in projects. Thousands of additional needed consultation including for pesticides, renewable energy development, and floodplain development will also be hindered by further cuts.

### **Migratory Birds**

#### ***Value of Investing:***

Migratory birds are integral to healthy natural systems in many ways, including as predators, prey, seed dispersers, and pollinators, and are actively appreciated and enjoyed by millions of people across the country. The [2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation](#) reports that nearly 47 million Americans enjoy watching and feeding birds, and spent \$107 billion on birdwatching equipment and travel within the US that year alone, creating 660,000 jobs and \$13 billion annually in local, state, and federal tax revenue. More than 17 million Americans travel to see birds, putting millions of dollars into local economies. Sadly, a 2009 [State of the Birds](#) report documented broad declines in US bird populations.

#### ***Impact of Cuts:***

The FWS [Migratory Bird Management program](#) budget suffered a 20 percent reduction in real dollars from FY10 to FY15. The already tiny [Neotropical Migratory Bird Fund](#) has seen even larger cuts of 31.5 percent since 2010, significantly reducing the number of projects funded. Continued cuts will further cripple the ability of these programs to appropriately manage migratory birds and conserve habitat to maintain sustainable populations:

- **Migratory Bird Management:** Cuts in research, permitting, and enforcement capabilities have impacted its ability to develop and implement much-needed programs like an eagle permitting program under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. To successfully implement the program, the Service must fill research gaps in eagle population science and mitigation options, and needs adequate resources for enforcement.

- **Neotropical Migratory Bird Fund:** Many species of birds that we see in our back yards are affected by habitat conditions in their wintering grounds located outside of the U.S. Birds like the Golden-winged warbler, which are currently in decline, may become endangered or threatened resulting in the need for even more resources to be allocated. Additional cuts could also significantly impact the relationships and the ability of our conservation partners in these countries to take action to protect wintering habitat for U.S. migratory bird species.

## Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

### *Value of Investing:*

[Landscape Conservation Cooperatives](#) (LCCs) were initiated by FWS in 2009 to enable multiple partners to better work together to address conservation challenges that are bigger than any one entity can manage alone. LCCs are designed to help solve complex problems across large landscapes and multiple resource concerns, like climate change, drought, and habitat fragmentation and to help partners deliver conservation more efficiently, avoiding duplication of effort.

### *Impact of Cuts:*

Some of the critically important projects threatened by cuts to the LCC program include:

- **The Appalachian LCC**, which stretches from southern New York to central Alabama states, has launched an effort to understand the value of, and threats to, the vital but often non-monetized benefits and services (such as air quality and clean water) that ecosystems like intact forests provide in order to achieve a better understanding of the true costs of activities that destroy or degrade these ecosystems.
- **The Great Plains LCC**, covering the southern Great Plains, has research and conservation priorities aimed at conserving habitat, including the long-term sustainability of the region's rivers and streams, for species like the lesser prairie-chicken, which is a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act.
- **The North Pacific LCC** extends along the coast from northern California to southeastern Alaska with a focus on tribal and subsistence resources. Projects that could be jeopardized include understanding the impacts of defoliating insects on berry crops in Alaska, developing a stream temperature database to improve salmon and trout management, and managing the Coast Redwoods ecosystems for resilience to climate change.

## Office of Law Enforcement

### *Value of Investing:*

Globally, wildlife faces escalating criminal threats, including illicit trade, illegal habitat destruction, and environmental hazards. [Illegal wildlife trade is also related to our national security](#). The [link](#) between wildlife smuggling and both organized crime and drug trafficking is well documented. Wildlife trade ranks third in monetary importance, just after the drug and arms trade. Wildlife trafficking and poaching has reached crisis levels. The Obama administration considered wildlife trafficking important enough to issue an [executive order in 2013](#).

### ***Impact of Cuts:***

The FWS [Office of Law Enforcement](#) budget suffered a 6.6 percent reduction in real dollars from FY 2010 to FY 2015. Continued cuts will severely limit its ability to investigate wildlife crimes, break up smuggling rings, and help citizens to comply with the law:

- **Fewer Special Agents:** Budget cuts have prevented the hiring of needed special agents, expert investigators that break up smuggling rings, stop commercial exploitation of protected U.S. species, and work with states to protect US game species from poaching that steals both state income and hunting and fishing opportunities.
- **Fewer Wildlife Inspectors:** Budget cuts have hindered the filling of vacancies for front line inspectors in nearly 40 ports of entry around the country.

### **Wildlife of Global Concern**

#### ***Value of Investing:***

The American people have long recognized the value of preserving wildlife globally as exemplified by the tremendous popularity of Bao Bao, the baby panda at the National Zoo. The relative wealth of our country in comparison to desperate situations around the globe means that modest investments of U.S. dollars can reap significant returns when invested in the developing world, in recent years leveraging three dollars for every dollar invested by the U.S. government.

### ***Impact of Cuts:***

The [International Affairs program](#) budget saw a 7.2 percent reduction in real dollars from FY10 to FY15. The [Multinational Species Conservation Funds](#) which focus on iconic elephants, rhinos, tigers, great apes and marine turtles has suffered larger cuts of 27 percent since 2010.

- **International Affairs:** Further cuts to the International Affairs operating program will undermine efforts to conserve wildlife by educating and empowering local stakeholders on the ground and preventing unsustainable or illegal international trade in wildlife including in native U.S. species such as ginseng and paddlefish that are sought as caviar substitutes.
- **Multinational Species Conservation Funds:** Continued cuts will severely hinder work to stem the tide of death to some of the world's most charismatic creatures. More than 500 tigers are killed each year, and experts estimate that as few as 3,200 tigers now remain in the wild. From 2010 through 2012, more than 100,000 elephants were slaughtered for their ivory tusks and a record number of more than 1,200 rhinos were killed in South Africa in 2014, a 93-fold increase from 2007.

### **State & Tribal Wildlife Grants Program**

#### ***Value of Investing:***

The State & Tribal Wildlife Grants is the nation's *CORE* program for preventing endangered species listings. The program has a proven track record of success at saving taxpayer dollars and avoiding regulatory uncertainty to business by reducing federal endangered species listings. The program supports important monitoring and research that is used by federal agencies in their listing decisions and

funds habitat management, protection, translocation and other voluntary actions that help to reverse population declines.

***Impact of Cuts:***

Funding for the program has been cut by 35 percent since FY10. State fish and wildlife agencies have had to reduce or eliminate species and habitat monitoring, end partnerships with the private sector and cut staff that conduct invasive species control, prescribed burning and other habitat management. Examples of recent losses include the following:

- **Tennessee** and other states have had to end or cut back on invasive species control projects that are needed to prevent the degradation of intact high quality habitats that support imperiled species.
- **Nevada** and other states have had to reduce staff to review energy projects, increasing the time needed to issue permits
- **Washington** reduced the number of sage and sharp-tailed grouse translocations that are necessary to help prevent federal endangered species listings.

*For more information, go [here](#) or contact Mark Humpert, Wildlife Diversity Director, Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, [mhumpert@fishwildlife.org](mailto:mhumpert@fishwildlife.org) or (202) 384-8169.*

**North American Wetlands Conservation Act**

***Value of Investing:***

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) was created in 1989 to provide grant assistance for conservation and restoration of wetland habitat across North America. With an overall match rate of 3:1, for every federal dollar granted through the NAWCA program, local partnerships raise more than \$3. This funding goes into local communities to provide restoration on wetlands and local jobs. The NAWCA program has conserved over 27.5 million acres of habitat with over 5,000 partners and 2,421 projects.

***Impacts of Cuts:***

While funding has stabilized over the last several fiscal years, overall funding has been reduced over 25% since its peak of \$47.6 million in FY 2010. Recent studies show that between 2004 and 2009, the US lost a total of 360,000 acres of wetlands, which was an increase of 25% over the previous study period of 1998-2004. While NAWCA has helped to replace some wetland losses, continued cuts to federal funding mean fewer acres are being restored and conserved. As the premier federal wetlands conservation program on the continent, without robust NAWCA funding, there is no large-scale mechanism to replace wetland loss.

*For more information, go [here](#) or contact Caroline Brouwer, Ducks Unlimited, at [cbrouwer@ducks.org](mailto:cbrouwer@ducks.org) or (202) 347-1530.*

## **Bureau of Land Management (BLM): Wildlife and Fisheries and Threatened and Endangered Species Management**

### *Value of Investing:*

The [Bureau of Land Management](#) manages more wildlife and fish habitat than any other federal agency, including half of the remaining habitat for the imperiled sage grouse and almost 15 million acres of prairie grasslands vital to many declining grassland dependent species. This diverse habitat supports over 3,000 species of fish and wildlife, nearly 300 plants and animals listed under the Endangered Species Act or candidates for protection, and more than 800 rare plant species. BLM lands also play an important role in providing outdoor recreation opportunities and for the businesses that support those activities. In states with significant BLM lands, more than [28,000 hunters, anglers and wildlife watchers spent \\$31 billion on wildlife associated recreation in 2012](#).

### *Impact of Cuts:*

- **Threatened and Endangered Species Management:** The [program](#) has suffered a 12.2 percent reduction in real dollars from FY10 to FY15 which has greatly hindered work such as efforts to help the highly endangered black-footed ferret, the endangered northern aplomado falcon, the endangered southwestern willow flycatcher, the threatened Chiricahua leopard frog that lives in high elevations in the desert southwest. Annual funding is only about ten percent of what is required of BLM in endangered species recovery plans.
- **Wildlife and Fisheries Management:** The [program](#) has received a modest increase the last two years for a precedent-setting effort to conserve the [greater sage-grouse](#), which has declined to less than ten percent of historic numbers. Despite a rider that was included in the final FY15 Consolidated Appropriations bill that seeks to delay a required decision to list the species under the Endangered Species Act, the Obama administration has indicated that this provision will not be allowed to interfere with needed planning and other efforts to conserve the sage-grouse. Cuts would derail this broadly supported and necessary effort as well as other important work such as addressing white-nose syndrome in bats which provide [more than \\$3.7 billion in pest management services](#) to the agriculture industry each year.

## **US Forest Service (USFS): Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management**

### *Value of Investing:*

More than 420 animals and plants listed under the Endangered Species Act and an additional 3,250 at-risk plants and animals are found on [our national forests and grasslands](#). These lands encompass an amazing array of habitats, from alpine tundra to tropical rainforest, deciduous and evergreen forests, native grasslands, wetlands, lakes and streams – including the headwaters of many rivers. Fish and wildlife on our National Forests are important to people and economies all across the nation. [A 2011 report](#) estimated that the economic impact of hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching associated with National Forests totals \$9.5 billion in annual retail sales, supports 189,400 jobs and provides \$1.01 billion in annual federal tax revenues.

### *Impact of Cuts:*

The [Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management program](#) budget suffered a 9.5 percent reduction in real dollars from FY 2010 to FY 2015.

- **Loss of Biologists:** Cuts have already led to the loss of biologists at the forest level, with consolidation of positions at the regional office significantly hindering effective management of habitat. The national wildlife ecology staff has one-third the capacity it had five years ago and some Regions lack wildlife, vegetation, or aquatic ecologists.
- **Impacts to Wide Ranging Species:** Continued cuts will impact many of the larger animals in the U.S. such as grizzly bear, wolverine, elk, Canada lynx, and bighorn sheep that persist because of National Forest lands. Since national forests often represent intact connected habitat, they are often the only suitable remaining habitat for recovery and reintroduction of rare creatures and form the backbone of many large-scale conservation plans.
- **Diminished Conservation Partnerships:** Continued cuts will severely diminish the agency's ability to foster conservation partnerships. Partnerships enable the agency to leverage habitat improvements on an additional 200,000 acres of National Forest lands including innovative efforts that help both communities and wildlife.

### **US Geological Survey (USGS): National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center**

#### *Value of Investing:*

The overall mission of [the National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center](#) is to work with and provide natural resource managers and partners the tools and information they need to develop and execute strategies for successfully responding to increases in droughts, floods, fires, coastal inundation and other impacts of climate change and extreme weather. The National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center and the regional Department of the Interior Climate Science Centers leverage significant climate-related research performed by university partners.

#### *Impact of Cuts:*

The National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center and the Climate Science Centers have only recently been established, and do not currently have enough funding to meet the demand for the information and science capacity they provide to resource managers. Cuts in funding would curtail critical science endeavors. Recently completed projects include:

- **Breeding Birds and Waterfowl:** Researching the effects of climate change, drought and land use changes on breeding bird populations in the northern Great Plains and prairie pothole region of the Midwest. This region is critical to maintaining waterfowl populations and is experiencing the drying of the wetlands birds use during breeding season.
- **Western Trout:** Studying the effects of warming water temperatures, increased flooding, and increased wildfire risk on Western trout populations. In Idaho alone, fishing generates almost \$300 million in economic activity, and the single most important game fish is trout. The research and management tools developed through this project will be essential to fisheries managers in conserving trout and providing recreational opportunities.

*For more information, contact Mary Beth Beetham, Director of Legislative Affairs, Defenders of Wildlife, at [mbeetham@defenders.org](mailto:mbeetham@defenders.org) or (202) 772-0231.*

## CLEAN AIR, WATER AND PUBLIC HEALTH

### **Environmental Protection Agency**

EPA's funding has been on a downward trajectory for over a decade. Except for one year, 2010, EPA funding has been stagnant or worse. The FY15 budget is 24% below the level of just FY10, as Congress intentionally tries to cripple the Agency's ability to carry out its statutory duties of protecting the environment. These cuts have meant our environment has suffered while polluters have benefited.

A third of the EPA budget goes to the states to fund their regulatory programs and assist in funding construction for drinking water and sewer systems. The rest of the budget pays for the federal staff including scientists, enforcement personnel and regulatory experts.

In the face of budget cuts, EPA's response has been to ramp down its inspection and enforcement efforts. In a [draft strategic plan](#), EPA indicated that it intends to place a greater reliance on so-called "Next Generation Compliance Strategies," by which it relies on industry self-regulating, along with enhanced public information, to encourage compliance. It is obvious that this downgrading of inspections is not to get better results but to meet budget-cutting demands.

This high-tech approach may work satisfactorily for the largest companies that have adequate high technology capabilities and the need to keep a positive public profile. However, as the 2014 Charleston, West Virginia spilled showed, many companies in a position to create havoc can only be discovered by inspections or whistleblowers.

Consider how the Agency's new enforcement approach will negatively affect water quality. EPA predicts far fewer pounds of pollution will be controlled – over the next five years. The agency expects enforcement actions under the alternative strategy to "reduce, treat, or eliminate" roughly 220 million pounds of water pollutants per year, while acknowledging that the annual average pollutant control for fiscal years 2005-2008 was 320 million pounds. That's not the "progress" we need for our next generation.

Many of the inspections are carried out by states, partially funded by EPA; those inspections will also plummet as the tiny EPA budget continues to be eviscerated. Rather than retreat on enforcement, Congress should fund, and EPA should invest in, enforcement approaches that have a proven record of curbing pollution.

*For more information, contact Scott Slesinger, Legislative Director, Natural Resources Defense Council, at [sslesinger@nrdc.org](mailto:sslesinger@nrdc.org) or 202-289-2402.*

### **EPA's Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds**

#### ***Value of Investing:***

The [Clean Water](#) and [Drinking Water](#) State Revolving Funds (SRFs) have enabled states to provide more than \$109 billion in low-interest loans and grants to communities to better protect public health

and improve the quality of our nation’s water resources. They provide critical funding to a wide range of communities—from the nation’s largest cities to small, rural towns—for a variety of water and wastewater projects, including drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities and systems to manage stormwater pollution. Every dollar invested in [water infrastructure](#) generates roughly \$2.62 in the private economy, and every job added in the water sector results in the addition of 3.68 jobs to the national economy.

Annual federal capitalization grants from EPA along with state matching funds and loan repayments enable states to provide much-needed funds to communities to meet existing water infrastructure needs and increasingly, to address challenges from natural disasters like floods and droughts. As was witnessed during [Hurricane Sandy](#), power outages and flooding interrupted water and sewer service to tens of millions of people and caused the release of billions of gallons of untreated sewage across the Northeast. In passing the [Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013](#), Congress recognized the need to deploy SRF funds to repair water and wastewater infrastructure and to make our communities more resilient to future storms and other extreme weather events.

### ***Impact of Cuts:***

In recent years, reductions in federal funding levels for the SRFs have resulted in decreases in state allocations, jeopardizing the number of projects that states can fund. Although the SRFs provide billions of dollars in funding, our nation’s water infrastructure needs far exceed the amount of funding available. Over the next 20 years, [water infrastructure needs](#) in communities across the US totals more than \$630 billion simply to maintain current levels of service. Drinking water and wastewater utilities will need an additional \$448 billion to \$944 billion to prepare for [climate change-related impacts](#) through 2050. It is critical that Congress continue to invest in water infrastructure through SRF capitalization grants to the states.

*For more information, contact Scott Slesinger, Legislative Director, Natural Resources Defense Council, at [sslesinger@nrdc.org](mailto:sslesinger@nrdc.org) or 202-289-2402.*

## **ENERGY**

### **Renewable Energy and Conservation**

#### ***Value of Investing:***

Since 2009, the Department of the Interior has approved a total of 52 new utility-scale renewable energy projects—enough to power 4.8 million American homes. In addition, the Department continues to expand offshore wind leasing on the Atlantic coast, and is working to implement its Solar Energy Program on public lands in the West. Developing and implementing a strategy for renewable energy project siting and permitting that is truly “smart from the start” requires coordinated landscape-scale planning among FWS, BLM, and other departments and agencies to achieve both renewable energy and wildlife and other resource conservation goals. Successfully planning, studying, permitting, and leasing

these projects in the right places will help fulfill the President's Climate Action Plan goal of permitting 20,000 megawatts of renewable energy on public lands by 2020.

***Impact of Cuts:***

- **Delay in construction and operations of renewable energy resources:** BLM has made significant progress in the number of renewable energy projects approved on public lands in the past six years, totaling more than 14,000 megawatts of energy permitted. That progress in assessing and permitting projects, overall and on key initiatives such as the BLM's Solar Energy Program, would be at risk with continued cuts. In addition, BLM leases public lands, including National Forest lands, for geothermal energy development that amounts to over one-third of the nation's geothermal energy capacity, and the BLM and Forest Service are working together to review and find the best locations for corridors for transmission and other infrastructure across the West. Reduced funding levels equate to delays in decisions affecting permits and other essential reviews necessary for developing on public lands.
- **Risk to critical efforts to protect important species:** The Fish and Wildlife Service is working with developers and other agencies to improve information and science related to species impacts from renewable energy, with initiatives that address sage grouse, whooping cranes, bald and golden eagles and Indiana bats. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) 'Smart from the Start' initiative has so far led to seven successful lease sales in designated Atlantic coast Wind Energy Areas, with more leases scheduled in 2015 and a new assessment for Wind Energy Areas off North Carolina setting up future lease sales there as well. Reduced funding levels will equate to delays in resource-user conflict resolution and identification of best practices for conservation of sensitive species like the North Atlantic Right Whale, whooping cranes and desert tortoise, and ultimately could delay renewable energy leasing and necessary project permits.

*For more information, contact Mary Beth Beetham, Director of Legislative Affairs, Defenders of Wildlife, at [mbeetham@defenders.org](mailto:mbeetham@defenders.org) or (202) 772-0231.*

**Landscape-scale Approach to Energy Development**

***Value of Investing:***

The Department of the Interior is charged with both advancing our economy, national security, and meeting the needs of our growing population through development of our nation's energy resources, while also protecting our natural resources to maintain our quality of life and sustain the value of ecosystems and the services they provide for future generations. Through Secretary Jewell's first Secretarial Order 3330 "Improving Mitigation Policies and Practices of the Department of the Interior", the Department recognizes that landscape-scale approaches to mitigating the impacts of energy development are practical, efficient and very effective in reconciling those economic and environmental goals. Therefore, the Secretary is implementing a Department-wide strategy that will use a landscape-scale approach to identify and facilitate investment in key conservation priorities across regions. This approach will ultimately lead to more effective conservation of natural resources, as well as improved permitting processes for energy development by avoiding conflicts early on in the planning process and prioritizing mitigation actions.

### *Impacts of cuts:*

- Opportunities to incorporate landscape-scale mitigation planning into energy development decisions often come at the land-use planning level. For example, BLM is in the process of amending dozens of Resource Management Plans (RMPs) in the Greater sage-grouse range to reconcile energy development, among other threats, with recovery of the species. However, cuts to BLM's RMP budget significantly jeopardize the Bureau's ability to incorporate new approaches to landscape-scale mitigation. Other important landscape-scale planning efforts include BLM's Rapid Ecoregional Assessments, Master Leasing Plans, and regional initiatives such as the BLM's Solar Energy Program.
- When energy development is likely to impact endangered species, developers must work with the FWS to develop Habitat Conservation Plan (HCPs) to ensure activities do not jeopardize the recovery of the species. HCPs are another opportunity to incorporate a landscape-scale approach to mitigating the impacts of energy development. Again, cuts to FWS's HCP budget hinder our ability to improve the way our nation plans for and mitigates the impacts of energy development on its natural resources.

*For more information, contact Amanda Reed, Policy Advisor, The Nature Conservancy, at [areed@tnc.org](mailto:areed@tnc.org) or 703-841-4879.*

### **Department of Energy (DOE): Energy Efficiency**

#### *Value of Investing:*

There is [bipartisan recognition](#) that energy efficiency gains have delivered enormous cost savings to consumers, increased competitiveness, and reduced environmental harm over the past 40 years. While energy savings have exceeded new supply added, there remains enormous potential, with good reason to believe that [energy productivity can be doubled by 2030](#), with gross energy savings greatly exceed \$1 trillion. The Department of Energy's efficiency programs have a vital role and a proven track record of spurring new technology and technology adoption.

#### *Impact of Cuts:*

Reflecting the wide recognition of the enormous benefits of energy efficiency, DOE's efficiency budget has been held relatively steady since FY11. However, a range of highly prospective efficiency activities has been identified that strongly supports a significant increase in spending, and these have been foregone. Examples of lost efficiency opportunities include:

1. **Advanced Manufacturing:** Next Generation Manufacturing R&D projects are focused on transformational improvements that will enable US manufacturers to realize significant gains in energy productivity, environmental performance, product yield, and economic competitiveness. Many areas for support were identified warranting increased funding levels as compared to FY2014.
2. **Building Technologies:** R&D in emerging technologies such as non-vapor compression HVAC technology, as well as investments in transactive controls and grid-integration of building systems to optimize energy performance continues to be highly productive, as does market stimulation and building codes and equipment standards.

3. **Weatherization Assistance:** The Weatherization Assistance Program has demonstrated long-term success in deploying highly cost-effective efficiency measures in low-income households. DOE's FY15 request of \$227 million was far below the level of annual investment that was achieved in the period 2009-2012, a step toward bringing the funding back to pre-Recovery Act levels, ensuring a true national program that serves all states, cities and counties.

For more information, contact Scott Slesinger, Legislative Director, Natural Resources Defense Council, at [sslesinger@nrdc.org](mailto:sslesinger@nrdc.org) or 202-289-2402.

## **Clean Energy Research**

### ***Value of Investing:***

Core programs at the Department of Energy are partly responsible for repositioning the US at the cutting edge of clean energy technology. The Office of Science supports fundamental scientific research, the Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E) supports transformational energy-related research and development projects and the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's (EERE) supports incremental technological improvements to accelerate development and deployment. Federal clean energy spending has consistently proven its worth by driving job creation, economic growth and reducing health and environmental costs. Because of investment in all levels of research, wind generation and solar capacity have grown tremendously while at the same time reducing costs nearly 40%. This has helped create jobs across the economy, with the Bureau of Labor Statistics finding 3.4 million US green jobs in 2011.

### ***Impact of Cuts:***

Reflecting the wide recognition of the enormous benefits of energy efficiency, DOE's research budget has been held relatively steady since FY11. However, the need for new energy solutions is of paramount importance in the race to address the threat of climate change and current funding levels constrain our ability to meet this need.

- **The U.S. Department of Energy Office of Science** is the lead federal agency supporting fundamental scientific research for energy and the Nation's largest supporter of basic research in the physical sciences. While its work is broader than improving the environment, a large amount does directly contribute to sound environmental understanding and outcomes. Specifically, the Office of Science supports several cross-agency climate-change research initiatives, biological research that will ultimately benefit the affordable production of clean, renewable biofuels. The Office of Science provides 40 percent of the total funding for basic research in the physical sciences, oversees our national laboratories and is widely involved in science education, helping lay the foundation for innovation, long-term economic growth, and competitiveness.
- **The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE)** accelerates development and facilitates deployment of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies and market-based solutions that strengthen U.S. energy security, environmental quality, and economic

vitality. With Energy sector R&D budgets being among the lowest of all industrial sectors, EERE support of research, development and technology transfer activities in vehicles, bioenergy, hydrogen fuel cells, solar, wind, water, geothermal, advanced manufacturing, and building sectors performs a critical role in transitioning our economy toward next generation power sources.

- **The Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy (ARPA-E)** is enormously important cog in the US energy innovation chain, supporting innovative, transformational energy technologies in their earliest stages of development. ARPA-E seeks to catalyze transformational breakthroughs across the energy spectrum focusing on, among other things, developing entirely new ways to generate, store and use energy. Without additional funding the next breakthrough technology may not be funded.

*For more information, contact Scott Slesinger, Legislative Director, Natural Resources Defense Council, at [sslesinger@nrdc.org](mailto:sslesinger@nrdc.org) or 202-289-2402.*

## OCEANS AND COASTS

### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**

#### ***Value of investing:***

The US ocean and coastal economy contributes more than \$282 billion annually to the nation's GDP and supports 2.8 million jobs through fisheries and seafood production, tourism, recreation, transportation, and construction. NOAA's mission to protect, restore, and manage our ocean and coasts is vitally important to our nation's ocean and coastal economies and the communities that depend on them. These "wet side" programs provide many benefits, from ending overfishing to mitigating and recovering from disasters.

*For more information, contact Addie Haughey, Senior Manager, Government Relations, Ocean Conservancy, [ahaughey@oceanconservancy.org](mailto:ahaughey@oceanconservancy.org) or (202) 351-0496.*

### **National Ocean Service**

#### ***Value of investing:***

The National Ocean Service (NOS) is the nation's ocean and coastal agency. NOS is the nation's leader in observing, measuring, assessing, protecting, and managing coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes areas.

- The **Marine Debris Program** conducts reduction, prevention, and research activities, and supports grants, partnerships, and contracts to address marine debris. Marine debris has become one of the most widespread pollution problems facing the world's oceans and waterways. The March 2011

Japanese tsunami tragedy severely added to this pollution problem - large debris washing up (i.e. docks and ships) has caused significant management and removal challenges that could continue to through 2015. Persistent debris has serious effects on the marine environment and the economy, causing impacts from wildlife entanglement, ingestion and ghost fishing to navigational hazards and vessel damage.

- The [U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System \(IOOS\)](#) is a Federal, regional and private-sector partnership dedicated to enhancing our ability to collect deliver and use coastal information on marine commerce, ecology and fisheries, water quality, hazards and long-term climate trends. IOOS uses state of the art technology to deliver quality information in a cost-effective manner. It's a single system that serves many uses – over 50% of the ocean data used by the Weather Service now comes from IOOS data streams, IOOS data assists shellfish growers in the Northwest to mitigate the effects of ocean acidification and IOOS data aided emergency managers when Hurricane Sandy struck the east coast.

*For more information, contact Addie Haughey, Senior Manager, Government Relations, Ocean Conservancy, [ahaughey@oceanconservancy.org](mailto:ahaughey@oceanconservancy.org) or (202) 351-0496.*

## **Ocean and Coastal Management and Services**

### ***Value of investing:***

The National Ocean Service provides science-based solutions to address evolving pressures on our ocean and coasts. With a focus on coastal resilience, coastal intelligence, and place-based conservation, investing in NOS programs is investing in resilient and healthy coastal communities, economies, and ecosystems.

- NOS's **Coastal Management Grants** line includes [Coastal Zone Management Grants](#) and **Regional Coastal Resilience Grants**. CZM grants support cost-effective, federal-state partnerships. This unique model allows the federal government to empower states to more efficiently manage their coasts. These grants have helped our 35 coastal states and territories, 673 coastal counties, and thousands of coastal municipalities protect natural resources; manage development in high hazard areas; give development priority to coastal-dependent uses; provide public access for recreation; prioritize water-dependent uses, and coordinate state and federal actions. NOS also supports competitive Regional Coastal Resilience Grants. Comprehensive resilience for coastal communities and economies can only be achieved at the regional level when communities, states, and federal agencies come together to share their collective knowledge and experience and establish a unified direction – RCRG grants support this innovative regional approach.
- Healthy estuaries minimize disasters and yield a high rate of return for coastal communities. The [National Estuarine Research Reserve System](#) meets these important needs. The nation's 28 (soon to be 29) Research Reserves are protected estuaries and coastal areas in local communities that provide the science-based research and education community members need. By protecting

estuaries and coasts, it reduces community vulnerability to hazards, supports the nation's economy, and provides abundant credible scientific research.

- The [Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program \(CELCP\)](#) provides matching funds to states and local governments to acquire coastal and estuarine lands important for their recreational, ecological, conservation, historical, and aesthetic values.
- [Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas](#) embody our nation's commitment to preserve the best of our ocean, coasts, and Great Lakes. From expansions at existing sanctuaries to nominations for new sites, the American people are voicing their support for national marine sanctuaries and the benefits they provide for communities and our nation. Through their community-driven approach designed to accommodate multiple uses of our ocean, sanctuaries foster economic growth, support fishing and tourism jobs and businesses, preserve underwater and maritime treasures, and provide valuable public access for ocean recreation, research, and education. Sanctuary visitor centers and facilities anchor local economies and enrich communities. Underfunding of sanctuaries' operations and procurement cuts visitor center operations, eliminates collaborative partnerships that leverage private funds for taxpayer benefits, and diminishes enforcement capacities that protect fishermen by guarding against illegal fishing.

*For more information, contact Addie Haughey, Senior Manager, Government Relations, Ocean Conservancy, [ahaughey@oceanconservancy.org](mailto:ahaughey@oceanconservancy.org) or (202) 351-0496.*

## **National Marine Fisheries Service**

### ***Value of investing:***

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is the federal agency responsible for the stewardship of the nation's living marine resources and their habitat. NMFS leads efforts to manage, conserve and protect living marine resources in U.S. waters.

- NMFS' [Habitat Conservation & Restoration](#) activities improve the nation's degraded coastal habitats which helps keep commercial and recreational fisheries strong while creating jobs and benefiting local economies. The **Community-based Restoration Program (CBRP)** is NOAA's only program focused on funding on-the-ground projects to restore the nation's coastal, marine, and migratory fish habitat. The non-regulatory CBRP has resulted in positive collaborations with more than 1,500 organizations, including partners from the private-sector, nonprofits, and state and local governments to fund more than 2,000 projects to restore over 69,000 coastal acres in every coastal state. Habitat investments are a necessary complement to traditional fisheries management approaches. Fish need healthy and abundant habitat for sustainable commercial and recreational fisheries. Without healthy habitat, we cannot sustain the fisheries that will feed Americans now and into the future.

- **Cooperative Research** grants are regionally-based competitive grants that fund partnerships between fishermen and scientists to advance the management of our nation’s fisheries. Grants leverage the expertise of fisherman to improve fishery data and test advancements like new fishing gear designs. These partnerships can increase the confidence of fishermen in fishery data and create jobs in fishing communities – cuts would hamper this goal.

For more information, contact Addie Haughey, Senior Manager, Government Relations, Ocean Conservancy, [ahaughey@oceanconservancy.org](mailto:ahaughey@oceanconservancy.org) or (202) 351-0496.

## **Fisheries Research and Management**

### ***Value of Investing:***

A significant portion of our coastal economies stems from fisheries, and [NOAA has made great strides toward ending overfishing](#). Information provided by core data collection, catch monitoring and stock assessment programs within NOAA is critical to the success of this endeavor – commercial and recreational fisheries provide 1.4 million American jobs and contribute \$72 billion to the GDP.

- Funding for **Expand Annual Stock Assessments** provides the resources to assess priority fish stocks as fishery managers implement the requirements for annual catch limits (ACLs), creating greater confidence that catch limits will avoid overfishing while providing optimal fishing opportunities. Cuts reduce the number of fisheries that can be assessed and reduce the information available for managers’ long-term goals for sustainable management of U.S. fisheries.
- Improved sampling and timelier reporting of catch data are needed for successful management of marine recreational fisheries. Through the **Marine Recreational Information Program**, NOAA seeks to provide more data to ease uncertainty. Cuts would reverse advancements that have been made since 2008 toward more frequent and timely data for effective in-season management.
- **Fish Information Networks** are regional, co-operative state-federal programs to design, implement, and conduct marine fisheries statistics data collection programs and to integrate that data into a data management system that addresses the needs of fishery managers, scientists, and fisherman. Cuts would hamper the use of these important tools for sustainable fishery management.
- **Survey and Monitoring Projects** funding supports the collection of vital fishery-independent survey information that is required for developing and updating specific stock assessments, from red snapper to striped bass to Alaska Pollock. Cuts would require NMFS to take funding away from other programs in order to maintain these vital data streams.
- [Reducing Bycatch](#), the incidental catch of over two billion pounds per year of non-target fish and thousands of other protected marine wildlife due to destructive fishing practices, helps achieve the Administration’s priorities of ending overfishing and ensuring our fisheries are sustainable. Reducing bycatch ensures the resilience of fishing communities by avoiding shutting

down fishermen if bycatch limits or quotas are exceeded. This funding helps develop and test new technologies, supports cooperative research, and aids the collection of reliable bycatch data.

- As many fishing communities struggle to survive with stiff competition from cheaper seafood imports, honest fishermen deserve to know rule breakers will be caught and punished. Domestic **Fisheries Enforcement** programs ensure compliance with annual catch limits, protect the sustainability of U.S. fisheries and vulnerable species, and help keep illegal, unreported, and unregulated seafood out of U.S. markets – which NOAA estimates causes economic losses of \$10-23 billion every year and comprises up to forty percent of the catch in some fisheries.
- **Fishery Observers and Training** programs provide trained fishery observers, the best means of verifying fisheries catch and quantifying bycatch (including endangered, threatened, and other vulnerable species). Catch monitoring provides managers and scientists with reliable estimates of fishing mortality as well as catch composition and biological data used in stock assessments to determine how many fish are in the water. Current funding supports observer programs in over forty fisheries nationwide, but as much as half of those have insufficient levels of observer coverage (1-3 percent of fishing trips).

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## **Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research**

### ***Value of investing:***

NOAA's Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research strengthens the science that underpins NOAA's products and services. Whether improving warning lead times for hurricanes or understanding the response of ecosystems to a rapidly changing ocean environment, OAR's preeminent research ultimately enables solutions that prevent loss of human life, improve management of natural resources, build understanding of the Earth-system, and strengthen the economy.

- Through the [National Sea Grant College Program's](#) research and outreach activities, the intellectual power of more than 300 universities and thousands of scientists and extension specialists are brought to bear. This integrated system allows Sea Grant to quickly deploy and focus a vast university-based network of professionals, and helps citizens and localities become better stewards of shoreline resources, thus creating more resilient and environmentally responsible coastal communities. FY 2014 performance metrics show that as a result of Sea Grant activities, the nation achieved \$450 million in economic benefits; created or sustained 6,500 businesses and over 17,000 jobs; resorted over 21,700 acres of degraded ecosystems, and 300 communities improved their coastal resilience. Sea Grant leveraged an additional \$2 for every federal dollar invested.
- Over the last decade, scientists have discovered that excess carbon dioxide is changing the chemistry of the sea and proving harmful to many forms of marine life. The **[Integrated Ocean Acidification](#) Program** coordinates research, maintains a monitoring program, develops

adaptation strategies and techniques, and provides critical research grants to improve understanding of ocean acidification's ecological and sociological impacts. Cuts would damage ongoing efforts, including increases in monitoring and developing an early warning system for vulnerable fisheries.

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## **INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS**

### **Department of Treasury**

#### **Global Environment Facility (GEF)**

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is an independently operated, international financial facility that unites 183 countries with international institutions, civil society, and the private sector to address global environmental issues including biodiversity, land degradation, and climate change. The GEF helps countries improve environmental governance and fight the unsustainable depletion of natural resources, which can lead to population displacement, declines in global food supply, water shortages and other causes of instability that make communities vulnerable to conflict and radicalization. America's investment in the GEF also yields a very high rate of return. For every US dollar invested, about 52 additional dollars are raised from donor and recipient countries and other public and private partners.

#### ***Impact of Underfunding:***

- The GEF is an integral institution in forest conservation. Low levels of funding will cripple its ability to obtain the co-financing it needs to enact many of its programs and may hurt efforts in some of the world's newest nations, such as South Sudan, where conservation and wildlife tourism can help build stability and sustainability.
- The GEF has begun a new funding cycle, also known as GEF-6, which covers July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2018. This includes new programs that focus on a range of issues, including combating wildlife trade and helping companies reduce deforestation impacts in their supply chains. Reduced funding would suspend progress on these important initiatives.

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#### **Green Climate Fund (GCF)**

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) which is set to begin operations in late 2015 and has received over \$10 billion in pledges for its initial four years of work, is intended to be the primary financial mechanism to support developing country efforts to address climate change. The GCF will replace or complement existing multilateral climate change funds. Its innovative framework will focus on the development and implementation of country-level strategies and plans for climate resilience and low-carbon development,

coupled with robust monitoring and evaluation. It has a focus on particularly vulnerable countries including least developed countries, small island states and African states.

- The \$10 billion in pledges for the GCF includes a \$3 billion U.S. pledge and substantial pledges of at least \$1 billion each from Japan, the UK, Germany and France, as well as smaller pledges from Canada, Australia, other European countries, and a number of “nontraditional” donor countries like Mexico, Korea, Peru, Colombia, Panama and Mongolia.

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### **Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA)**

Enacted in 1998, the Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA) gives eligible developing countries the option to relieve official debt while simultaneously generating local currency to support tropical forest conservation. The TFCA works to strengthen civil society by creating local foundations to provide small grants to NGOs and local communities and offers a unique opportunity for public-private partnerships.

As of July 2013, approximately \$223 million in congressionally appropriated funds have been used to conclude 19 TFCA debt treatment agreements with 14 countries. A reauthorization of the TFCA has been proposed and introduced in previous Congresses that would extend the TFCA model to include coral reef ecosystems. This would make the TFCA more flexible and allow for a wider range of opportunities to support international conservation. Should a Reauthorization Act be reintroduced, we urge congress to approve it.

#### ***Impact of Underfunding:***

- Further cuts to the TFCA will discourage the negotiation of new agreements, thus removing a powerful incentive for developing countries to invest in forest conservation. This could have far-reaching effects in terms of species survival, climate change adaptation and forest management.

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### **Climate Investment Funds (CIFs) at the World Bank**

The Climate Investment Funds (CIFs) are a collective of multi-donor trust funds run through the World Bank and designed to support the actions of developing countries to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Established in 2008 by the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) with the support of the Bush administration and G8 partners, the CIFs are divided into two multi-donor Trust Funds.

Focusing on mitigation in middle income countries, the **Clean Technology Fund (CTF)**, promotes scaled-up financing for demonstration, deployment, and transfer of low-carbon technologies that have significant potential for long-term greenhouse gas emission reductions.

The **Strategic Climate Fund (SCF)** is comprised of three distinct funds. The **Forest Investment Program (FIP)**, started in 2009, supports transformational changes in forest-related policies and practices in eight pilot countries to target the underlying causes of deforestation in developing countries. The **Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR)** provides incentives to developing countries for scaled-up action to integrate climate resilience into national development planning. The third fund comprising the SCF is the **Scaling-Up Renewable Energy Program in Low Income Countries (SREP)**. This initiative was created to demonstrate the economic, social, and environmental visibility of low carbon energy pathways for low-income countries.

Collectively, the CIFs are a strong component of the existing U.S. commitment to help developing countries adapt to climate change and mitigate their future emissions. For more information, go [here](#).

***Impact of Underfunding:***

- A decrease in US funding levels will undermine USG climate finance commitments made in Copenhagen (2009) and prevent the implementation of programs and projects developed through the CIF process– many of which are designed to address key sources of GHG emissions.

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**USAID**

**Biodiversity Conservation Program**

Most US foreign assistance for on-the-ground conservation is delivered through USAID and its robust portfolio of conservation and forestry programs. These programs help protect some of the largest, most at-risk natural landscapes, as well as the livelihoods of millions of people who directly depend on natural resources for their survival and economic growth. By maintaining and restoring the natural resources that supply fertile soil, clean water, food and medicine, these USAID programs play an important role in long-term US foreign policy objectives.

***Impact of Underfunding:***

- USAID biodiversity programs promote competitiveness of U.S. businesses by ensuring the sustainability of supply chains, strengthening trade relationships around the world and preventing illegal products from flooding legitimate markets and undercutting American products.
- Biodiversity programs through USAID help in the fight against wildlife trafficking, a global crisis that has seen in the last decade a 2/3 decline in elephants in Central Africa and a 9000% increase in the poaching of rhinos in South Africa since 2007.

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## **Sustainable Landscapes Program (SLP)**

Global deforestation accounts for up to 14 to 17 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. Addressing forest conversion to agriculture, and other land use changes are cost-effective and readily available solutions to battle rising global emissions.

### ***Impact of Underfunding:***

- Low funding for the SLP could affect programs that combat deforestation, the third largest source of carbon emissions after coal and oil. With less funding, many initiatives will be forced to scale-back efforts that prepare countries to adopt REDD+ strategies that are vital to slowing down forest degradation.
- Cuts to funding would come at a time when critical results are just beginning to be observed. In 2010, at least 930,000 people increased their incomes through sustainable natural resource management and conservation activities.

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## **Adaptation Program**

Targeted and well-planned US climate change investments in adaptation are helping communities in developing countries build capacity to adapt to impacts such as severe weather events, decreased water availability, and shifting seasons and disease vectors.

### ***Impact of Underfunding:***

- USAID is currently working to develop resilience to climate change in areas that are most at risk of food-shortages. With estimates that crop yields in the tropics and sub-tropics could fall 10 to 20 percent by 2050 due to climate change and the rising cost of staple foods like maize, budget cuts to adaptation programs will come at a time when it is most desperately needed.
- Studies show that up-front investments in disaster risk reduction have cost savings of \$7 for every dollar spent.

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## **Clean Energy Program (CEP)**

The **Clean Energy Program (CEP)** under USAID promotes the sustainable use of renewable energy technologies, energy efficient end-use technologies, carbon sequestration, and carbon accounting. Guided by its 2012-2016 Climate Change and Development Strategy, USAID's clean energy investments have been targeted to countries and regions that fit specific criteria, including 1) existing major emitters, 2) countries projected to significantly increase greenhouse gas emissions under business-

as-usual scenarios, and 3) partners most able and ready to demonstrate leadership in clean energy development. Under the flagship initiative, Capacity for Low Emission Development Strategies (EC-LEDS) program, USAID provides technical assistance and capacity building to support countries' efforts to develop economy-wide, long-term low emission development strategies with assistance from the Department of State, Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, and others.

***Impact of Underfunding:***

- Low levels of funding for the CEP could endanger efforts to promote sustainability and low-carbon solutions for nations that could spur economic growth in the rapidly growing field of clean energy.

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**Population Assistance Program**

Since 1965, the US government has provided family planning and reproductive health services in the developing world as part of its foreign assistance program. There are an estimated 225 million women in the most impoverished parts of the world who want to delay or end childbearing but do not have access to modern contraceptives. The lack of access to modern contraception is a key driver of the 74 million annual unintended pregnancies worldwide and the resulting yearly net increase in global population of 86 million people. At the end of 2011, world population reached 7 billion, and the next billion people is expected to be added within 12 years. Population growth in the developing world remains a contributor to deforestation, desertification, the degradation of oceans and waterways, and loss of biodiversity and endangered species.

***Impact of Underfunding:***

The United States government spent \$610 million on overseas family planning and reproductive health programs in FY14. According to a recent analysis, each decrease of \$10 million in U.S. funding would result in the following:

- 520,000 fewer women and couples would receive contraceptive services and supplies;
- 110,000 more unintended pregnancies, and 50,000 more unplanned births, would occur;
- 50,000 more abortions would take place;
- 200 more maternal deaths would occur;
- 900 more children would lose their mothers.

*For more information, contact Craig Lasher, Director, US Government Relations, Population Action International, [CLasher@popact.org](mailto:CLasher@popact.org) (202) 557-3442*

## **Department of State**

### **International Conservation Programs**

The State Department's International Conservation Programs, run out of the Bureau of Oceans and International Environment and Scientific Affairs, supports cooperative approaches to conservation challenges. Core financial contributions go to international organizations including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

#### ***Impact of Underfunding:***

- In 2012 the State Department under Secretary of State Clinton made fighting wildlife trafficking a priority, noting that the illegal industry had become more dangerous and widespread than ever before. Since then, a Presidential Taskforce has been established and a strategy is being finalized. Curtailing funding would undermine programs that are just underway and hurt efforts to dismantle criminal syndicates that have been linked to terrorist organizations.

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### **Multilateral Funds to Combat Climate Change Supported by the State Department**

#### **Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)**

The World Bank's **Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)** is divided into two funds, the Readiness Fund, and the Carbon Fund. The Readiness Fund rewards relatively small grants (roughly \$4 million USD) to help finance development of national REDD+ strategies and institutional frameworks. The Carbon Fund pilots large-scale "pay for performance" REDD+ initiatives to test frameworks and benefit distribution systems in approximately five countries. REDD+ policies and programs work towards protecting the future of the forest system by promoting improved forest governance, protecting the rights of indigenous and local communities, and building capacity for community-based forest management.

#### ***Impact of Underfunding:***

- REDD+ goals advance the rights of indigenous and local communities by building capacity for community-based forest management. Budget cuts could impact programs that develop the tools that allow local communities to practice sustainable forestry instead of deforestation.

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## **Adaptation Programs**

The U.S. Department of State contributes to two multilateral climate funds managed by the Global Environment Facility under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The **Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF)**, established in 2001, targets the needs of least developed countries through the preparation, financing and implementation of National Adaptation Programs of Action (NAPAs), national plans that prioritize the response to a country's immediate needs to adapt to climate change.

The **Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF)** is a second multinational fund with the objective of supporting programs that are country-driven and integrated into national development and poverty-reducing strategies. The fund finances long and short-term projects related to adaptation and clean technology cooperation, including capacity building, economic diversification, technology transfer, and management in a wide range of areas.

### ***Impact of Underfunding:***

- State Department funding for adaptation programs target countries that are most in need and prepare them to deal with a changing climate. Budget cuts threaten to derail investments and progress that has already been made, leaving many countries vulnerable to disasters that could hurt their development and cost lives.
- Studies show that up-front investments in disaster risk reduction have cost savings of \$7 for every dollar spent. Furthermore, investing in community-based adaptation can result in an average increase of \$2.10 a day, with failure to invest decreasing income below one US dollar. Funding these programs now could save a significant amount of money in disaster relief and development aid in the future.

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## **International Agreements on Climate Change and Ozone Pollution**

The **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** was initiated in 1990 by the United Nations and signed at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro by the heads of 154 countries, including President George H.W. Bush. Since 1994, 192 countries have ratified the Convention, acknowledging that increasing anthropogenic emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases threatens to destabilize the global climate system and pledging to set an overall framework for intergovernmental efforts to tackle the challenges created by climate change. For more information, go [here](#).

The **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** is the leading international body for the assessment of climate change. This scientific body was established by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to provide the world with a clear scientific view on the current state of knowledge in climate change and its potential environmental and socio-economic impacts. For more information, go [here](#).

***Impact of Underfunding:***

- Decreasing funds to the UNFCCC and IPCC would be a mistake at a time when the U.S. has pledged to become a leader on climate change. These institutions have been vital in securing a global solution to climate change that is informed by science.

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**The Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer:**

The Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer is an international treaty designed to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the production of numerous substances believed to be responsible for ozone depletion. President Reagan signed the treaty in 1987, and it was ratified by the U.S. Senate the following spring. All of the countries in the United Nations have ratified the treaty, which has been called the single most successful international agreement to date.

***Impact of Underfunding:***

- Cuts to programs sponsored by the Montreal Protocol would not only be a step backwards in the fight against climate change, but it could also be counter-productive to the idea of the United States as a global leader on these issues.

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