

**FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act
USGS Section of Explanatory Statement Submitted by Mr. Obey**

**UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
SURVEYS, INVESTIGATIONS, AND RESEARCH**

Appropriation enacted, 2008	\$1,006,480,000
Budget estimate	968,516,000
Bill, 2009	1,043,803,000
Comparisons:	
Appropriations, 2008	+37,323,000
Budget estimate, 2009	+75,287,000

The detailed allocation of funding by program, activity and subactivity is included in the table at the end of this section of the statement. The bill includes the proposed global change research technical adjustments which move funds from several activities into the global change activity.

[continued on next page]

The proposed reductions for travel are not included for any activity. In addition, the bill also includes the following specific funding levels and directions:

Geographic Research and Remote Sensing. The bill includes \$1,000,000 for the national cooperative geographic information system mapping program but does not include the funding increase requested for the national land imaging program. The bill includes the requested reduction for geographic research and the transfer of priority ecosystems science funding to biological research. The bill fully funds the budget request of \$24,150,000 for the Landsat Data Continuity Mission and \$16,000,000 to continue the Landsat 5/7 program. Satellite development and launch costs associated with future US Geological Survey (USGS) land remote sensing operations should not be transferred from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to the Department of the Interior (DOI). These are functions that are not a component of current DOI operations but clearly fall within NASA's jurisdiction. Until a new plan for future land imaging and remote sensing coordination is drawn up that evaluates how satellite development, launch and operations should be funded, DOI should not undertake any action that attempts to assume the funding responsibilities that have traditionally been a part of the NASA budget.

Geologic Hazards Assessments. The bill includes \$3,000,000 for the earthquakes portion of the multi-hazards initiative and \$500,000 for the one-time costs of seismological equipment at the Arkansas Seismological Observatory, but the requested reduction for earthquake grants is not included. There is a general increase of \$2,000,000 for volcano hazards research. The Survey should evaluate ongoing needs for important volcano research and monitoring in active areas, such as Hawaii, Yellowstone, the Cascades and Alaska, where the USGS maintains observatories. The bill also includes a \$1,500,000 increase for the global seismographic network.

Geologic Landscapes and Coastal Assessments. The bill does not include the funds requested for the water census. The Administration should revisit that issue and consider resubmitting a more integrated program request in the next budget cycle. The bill moves funds for priority ecosystems science from earth surface dynamics to biological research as requested, and provides \$750,000 for Great Lakes region geological mapping within the National cooperative geologic mapping subactivity. The bill includes \$3,000,000 for extended continental shelf mapping in the Arctic Ocean, a total of \$1,000,000 for the ocean action plan coastal geology effort, and \$500,000 for California sea floor mapping.

Geologic Resources Assessments. The bill provides the fiscal year 2008 funding level for the minerals resources activities and assessments and includes \$650,000 to initiate a minerals resource assessment of federal lands in Nye County, Nevada, in collaboration with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology. The Survey's April 2008 petroleum resource assessment of the Bakken Formation was an important benchmark to further our nation's energy security. The Survey is strongly encouraged to expedite its efforts to conduct further applicable assessments or make additional data publicly available that can demonstrate the full range of energy resources in the stratigraphic sequences surrounding the Bakken Formation.

Ground Water Resources. The bill does not provide funding for the Water for America initiative but it does include a \$500,000 general increase and \$900,000 for San Diego, CA, aquifer mapping. Although funding is not provided for new aspects of the Water for America initiative,

the importance of this work is recognized and future budgets should consider a more integrated program request for this work.

National Water Quality Assessment. The bill does not include the large reduction requested for this vital program.

Toxic Substances Hydrology. As requested, the bill transfers funds for priority ecosystems science to the biological research program. In disagreement with the budget request, the bill continues funding for amphibian research and monitoring but moves that amount to biological research where the work will be accomplished.

Hydrologic Research & Development. The bill provides \$270,000 to continue the Hood Canal, WA dissolved oxygen study, \$295,000 to maintain the San Pedro River partnership, AZ, \$400,000 for the Long Term Estuary Assessment Group (LTA), and \$500,000 to continue work on the US-Mexico Transboundary Aquifer Assessment act. *UC Pursued TD*

National Streamflow Information Program. The bill does not include funds for the Water for America initiative but does include a general increase of \$2,000,000 for the stream gage program.

Hydrologic Networks and Analysis. The bill maintains the fiscal year 2008 funding level for the ocean action plan in this subactivity, provides \$497,000 to continue the Lake Champlain basin toxic materials study and \$500,000 to maintain Hawaii water resources monitoring activities. The Survey is encouraged to evaluate the need for selenium studies in Colorado and, to the extent possible, incorporate that work into other ongoing hydrologic research in the area.

Biological Research. The bill includes the following: a total of \$750,000 for the Healthy Lands Initiative; the requested funds for priority ecosystems science; the fiscal year 2008 level for Pacific Northwest forest biology; \$650,000 for contaminant and endocrine biology research; \$200,000 for the science excellence program with the Fish and Wildlife Service; \$500,000 to maintain the San Francisco, CA salt ponds restoration science; \$800,000 to maintain the Leetown, WV molecular biology effort; \$750,000 to maintain amphibian research and monitoring; a \$1,000,000 increase for Great Lakes biological sciences; and a total of \$5,000,000 for National Biological Information Infrastructure. The Survey is encouraged to provide full support for the southern sea otter science and monitoring effort.

Facilities. The bill provides the budget request, plus an additional \$4,000,000 for the deferred maintenance and capital improvement activity to continue the on-going project begun last year.

4) *Global Climate Change Research.* The bill includes all of the internal funding transfers recommended by the Survey in order to establish this new budget activity, and an increase of \$16,045,000 above the total request. Within the amounts provided, \$10,000,000 is for the National Global Warming and Wildlife Science Center and at least \$3,000,000 is to implement required geological and biological carbon sequestration studies as required by sections 711, 712 and 714 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

The National Global Warming and Wildlife Science Center funding includes \$2,500,000 to complete establishment of the Center. Additionally, the funding allows the Center to develop mechanisms that will ensure that it is responsive to the research and management needs of Federal and State agencies regarding the impacts of global warming on fish, wildlife, plants and ecological processes and the mechanisms for adaptation to, mitigation of, or prevention of those impacts. The recommendation also includes \$7,500,000 for the Center to fund research projects, including use of external and independent scientific peer review, to address the needs of resource

management agencies and the American public through greatly accelerated global warming research and through development of decision support tools.

The Secretary, with the assistance of the USGS National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center and a science advisory board, including members recommended by the National Academy of Sciences, should initiate development of a national strategy to assist fish, wildlife, plants, and associated ecological processes in becoming more resilient, adapting to, and surviving the impacts of climate change. In developing this national framework for flora and fauna conservation in a changing climate, the Secretary should consult with other Federal agencies, State fish, wildlife and conservation data agencies, Territories, Tribes, scientists, and stakeholders, and the Secretary should provide the public with notice and opportunity for comment.

Cms 2-23-09