

Environmental Contaminants

Environmental Contaminants	2003 Actual	2004 Estimate	Uncontrol. & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	2005 Budget Request	Changes from 2004 (+/-)
Environmental Contaminants \$(000)	10,710	10,672	+68	0	10,740	+68
FTE	105	106	0	0	106	0
CAM*	[510]	[TBD]*			[TBD]*	
Environmental \$(000)	10,710	10,672	+68	0	10,740	+68
Contaminants FTE	105	106	0	0	106	0

* The Service is reviewing the Cost Allocation Method and will provide a FY 2005 budget proposal by April 15, 2004.

Program Overview

Conservation through Cooperation, Communication and Consultation

The Environmental Contaminants (EC) program uses a cooperative and collaborative approach with other federal agencies, states, tribes, local governments, foreign governments and private citizens to identify and minimize contaminant related risks in the environment and to restore resources injured by contamination. Within this context, the EC program focuses in four priorities areas:

Priority Areas

- identifying contaminant sources and appropriate management measures to avoid impacts to trust resources
- restoring habitats and communities impacted by contaminants
- technical assistance to cooperating agencies in order to prevent or minimize contaminant impacts
- prevention and pre-planning to minimize contaminant sources and to provide accelerated responses to contaminant releases

The Service, through the EC Program, contributes directly to the DOI Resource Protection End Outcome Goal of Improving the Health of Watersheds and Landscapes Under DOI Management or Influence by implementing strategies to restore and maintain the proper function of watersheds and landscapes. The EC program is preparing a strategic plan for defining long term goals to elucidate the breadth and integration of EC program activities within the Service and DOI. This strategic plan will be completed in FY04 and will more clearly define the programs activities and continued support of the DOI Strategic Plan and Service operating procedures. EC program activities are done in cooperation with federal, state, and local government agencies as well as academicians and non-governmental organizations. EC specialists determine the sources and impacts of known and/or suspected contaminants on and off Service lands. This information aids managers to make decisions that eliminate or minimize identified problems. Service personnel are integrated into spill prevention activities and actively participate in local and regional response plans for oil spills and hazardous material releases, as well as oil spill and hazardous material drills. Through timely identification of environmentally sensitive areas and effective contingency planning, EC specialists help protect trust resources while significantly increasing the efficiency of responses to oil spills and hazardous substance releases.

EC specialists provide technical assistance on the development and evaluation of National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permits and Total Maximum Daily Loads requirements of the Clean Water Act by fulfilling data needs regarding contaminant-related impacts to Service lands and other habitats associated with trust resources. These activities support the conservation of trust resources by reducing or eliminating threats on and off Service lands. The Service through the EC program also collaborates with

other Federal, state, and local agencies to review and formulate management plans for watersheds on Service lands.

The Service also contributes directly to the DOI Resource Protection End Outcome Goal of sustaining Biological Communities on DOI Managed and Influenced Lands and Waters. Service specialists collaborate with Federal, state, and local entities, non-governmental organizations and private citizens to conserve species and communities through technical assistance and review of management plans for species and their habitats. EC specialists are also researchers who evaluate, modify and develop appropriate testing methodologies and procedures to determine impacts of contaminants on individual species and on biological communities. The Service monitors impacts of contaminants on trust resources through special studies on and off Service lands. These studies support management decisions on the conservation of trust resources.

The Service builds on past efforts to identify and work with partners on habitat restorations tied to the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program. Restoration funds recovered through Natural Resource Damage Assessment cases can be leveraged to increase the amount of habitat restored and to speed up the pace of restorations. In coordination with other Service programs (such as the Partners for Fish and Wildlife and the Endangered Species Recovery programs), as well as other federal and state agencies and non-governmental organization.

2003 Program Performance Accomplishments

With the \$10.7 million appropriated in FY 2003, the Environmental Contaminants Program helped the Service accomplish critical elements within its priority areas.

- The Service completed 39 contaminant investigations and 24 Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) activities, which resulted in restoration of 76 miles of riparian habitat, and 5,499 acres of wetlands and upland habitat. For example, the Service worked with state, local, and non-governmental partners to restore over 50 acres (including riparian buffer and shoreline vegetation, as well as forest and prairie acres) to compensate for natural resource damages following a fish kill on the White River in Indiana. In Michigan, the Service also worked with numerous partners to restore pike spawning habitat in the Saginaw River and Bay. In Virginia, a

Use of Cost and Performance Information

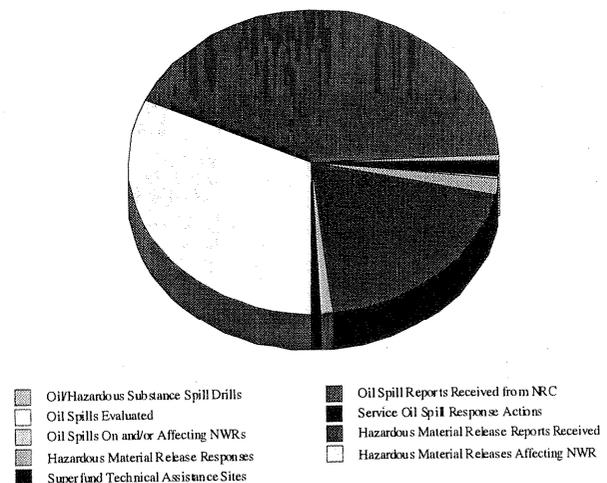
The Environmental Contaminants Program has been using performance based information for several years in its resource allocation process.

- EC provides informational support to other divisions and agencies such as toxicological reports to the Endangered Species Program (Water Quality Criteria and Standards and pesticide registration); the National Wildlife Refuge System for Refuge cleanup, contaminant investigations, contaminant assessment and assist them with Integrated Pesticide Management; the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. EPA during hazardous material and/or oil spills so that the issues may be addressed in a timely fashion. Our efficiency will be improved by further completing and implementing our strategic plans long-term goals and further coordinating and communicating these efforts within the Service and outside client agencies.
- EC uses contractors for chemical analysis because they are a more cost effective means to obtain necessary information. We maintain the highest quality data by working closely with the contractors before, during and after analysis. Contracting is less expensive than building and staffing a full service laboratory. The greatest advantage in using contractors is the wider range of expertise available through contracts, a much larger list of available analyses, and greater flexibility to get the work done.
- Performance information is used to allocate resources in the Investigations part of the program. Proposals are evaluated based on scientific merit, management outcomes, trust resource impacts and a score based on the five-year Regional Performance. If Regions do not complete investigations in a timely fashion, they are penalized. Through the Peer Review process, we prioritize the on and off Service land investigations, refuge cleanups and contaminant assessments. This process ensures that the work being performed meets the needs of the Service and maintains the high quality and scientific integrity of the data for effective management decisions.
- The use of Activity Based Costing will provide the appropriate avenue to report our accomplishments and accurately document our efforts while further aiding our identification, prioritization, and utilization of our recognized expertise.

settlement for natural resource damages is resulting in reintroduction of endangered freshwater mussels to their native habitats, as well as stream modifications to allow for fish passage.

- Environmental Contaminants (EC) specialists performed 539 Section 7 consultations on Clean Water Act (CWA) decisions by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and 4,066 CWA reviews for state and local entities. These were done in partnership with Service's Refuges and Fisheries programs, other federal agencies (e.g. FERC, EPA), states, local governments and local citizens. These activities are conducted on a watershed scale, reflecting coordination with the EPA on their watershed approach to promote efficiency for the conservation and protection of watersheds and resources. In addition, the Service, through the EC program, worked cooperatively with EPA to draft a prototype method for completing consultations on national water quality criteria.
- EC specialists provided technical assistance on 312 Integrated Pest Management actions, evaluated 1,541 Pesticide Use Proposals, and completed 216 consultations on pesticide use and registration. In conjunction with this, EC specialists participated in an interagency pesticide use task force evaluating scientific data and providing science-based guidance to natural resource and regulatory agencies. These actions helped prevent unnecessary impacts to Service lands, and facilitated continued control of invasive species.
- The Service is the only Federal agency with natural resource trustee responsibilities for both inland and coastal oil spills. The Service was involved in 9,486 spill prevention activities and responses, including 8,168 technical evaluations of oil spills (219 of which were on National Wildlife Refuges); actively participated in 170 oil spill drills; and partnered with federal, state and local governments in developing local, regional and national contingency plans. Service personnel worked in cooperation with NOAA, U.S. Coast Guard, EPA, state natural resource agencies and the public. EC Specialists also worked with EPA to develop a GIS-based mapping system to begin identify locations of sensitive environmental areas as well as spill response equipment.
- The Service responded to more than 5,013 technical assistance requests from federal, state, tribal and local governments activities on issues including: review of Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMPs) for the Department of Defense, biological technical assistance groups (BTAGs) to EPA for superfund activities, ecological risk assessments, Army Corps of Engineer construction projects, and restoration actions as well as providing objective, scientific evaluations of remediation and emergency actions on Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) actions.
- Assistance was provided to other Service programs on 2,471 separate projects including pre-acquisition surveys, use of specific construction materials, NPDES permit reviews from Service facilities, design and implementation of scientifically valid methods for studies and monitoring of restoration actions.
- Because of the technical nature of their work, EC specialists actively helped establish Service wide guidance and procedures to implement the Information Quality Act. EC actively participated in the

Oil Spill Related Activities
FY2002 Actual



National Irrigation Water Quality Program (NIWQP), provides for technical assistance to other bureaus within DOI. Additionally, EC specialists actively participated on the National Water Quality Monitoring Council to provide expertise on water quality monitoring in coordination with USGS, EPA, states, industry, and local entities. EC specialists also provided technical expertise to outreach and other personnel regarding spills, law enforcement investigations, and various endangered species programs to increase understanding of impacts to critical habitat and listed species (e.g., assessing chemical contamination of hatchery fish food and assisting law enforcement special agents investigating poisonings of wildlife).

- The EC program has begun formulating a strategic plan with long term goals. This plan will enable the program to more effectively identify, focus, and address contaminant issues on and off Service lands. Furthermore, this will allow for better coordination and communication with other programs within the Service and DOI. For example, Refuges and Fisheries will be able to coordinate with EC on their long term goals. The efficiency of the EC program will improve with the ability to forecast resource management to accomplish the Service’s mission and to meet the increasing environmental challenges and on-going expectations of the American people.

2004 Planned Program Performance

The EC program will continue to work with others to conserve resources through cooperation, communication and consultation. We will continue to provide objective scientific reviews, reports, and technical assistance throughout the Service and with other Federal and state agencies, industry and the general public. In FY 2004, the EC program will accomplish the following key tasks:

- Complete the strategic planning process and implement actions to meet long term goals identified in the plan, in coordination with other Service programs. The implementation of the strategic plan will begin in FY04 continuing into FY05.
- Continue to investigate and remediate impacts of contaminants on Service lands and resources, accomplished through investigations both on and off Service lands.
- Work with all Service programs to provide technical expertise, scientific review, and assist in evaluating contaminant impacts on Service resources.
- Where appropriate, use Integrated Pest Management techniques to assist agricultural interests on and/or near Service lands, while protecting Service resources.

Wise Use of Pesticides	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Estimates	Difference
# Pesticide Use Proposals Reviewed	1541	1671	+130
# IPM Technical Assistance	312	369	+57
# Technical Assistance to Tribes	18	24	+6
# Technical Assistance to other Service Programs	2471	2,800	+329

- Restore injured resources and habitats with funds recovered during Natural Resource Damage Assessments.
- Work with EPA to provide technical assistance and consultation on issues dealing with the Clean Water Act and pesticide registration and re-registration.

- Work with agricultural users, noxious weed control districts and mosquito control districts to ensure pesticides used on Service lands are accomplishing their intended purposes, while protecting Service resources.
- Provide technical assistance to EPA to protect natural resources during and after Superfund site remediation. Early involvement in the planning process for these sites enables the Service to provide information resulting in cleanup of sites for the benefit of the environment.
- Continue to respond to spills of oil and releases of hazardous substances that affect Service resources. The Service works with the U.S. Coast Guard, EPA, states, and the public to protect trust resources during spills of oil and releases of hazardous substances.
- Continue to provide technical assistance and integration into prevention activities; and actively participate in formulating local and regional response plans for oil spills and hazardous materials releases, as well as participating in oil spill and hazardous material drills.