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DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
001	Email	CIA Program - To: Staff Secretary - From: McIntosh, Brent J.	1	01/16/2009	P6/b6;
002	Paper	CIA Program	3	01/16/2009	P1/b1;
003	Memorandum	Congressional Oversight and Executive Privilege in the Bush Administration - To: POTUS - From: Fred F. Fielding	9	N.D.	P5;
004	Memorandum	Summary of the Administration's Successful Effort to Modernize the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 ("FISA") - To: POTUS - From: Fred Fielding	8	01/17/2009	P3/b3; P5;
005	Memorandum	The President's Commitment to the Courts - From: Kate Todd	46	N.D.	P5;
006	Memorandum	Legal Interpretation of the Second Amendment in the Bush Department of Justice and the President's Response to Heller - From: Fred Fielding	3	N.D.	P5;

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Staff Secretary, White House Office of the

SERIES:
Von Der Heydt, Thomas (Tommy) - Bush Record Policy Memos

FOLDER TITLE:
White House Counsel's Office; Council on Environmental Quality: A Timeline (2001 - 2008)

FRC ID:
13895

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL'S OFFICE

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

A TIMELINE (2001–2008)

BUSH RECORD
POLICY MEMOS

1. Executive Privilege (WHCO)
2. FISA (WHCO)
3. Judges (WHCO)
4. Second Amendment (WHCO)
5. Climate Change (CEQ)
6. Cooperative Conservation (CEQ)
7. Federal Government Stewardship Policy (CEQ)
8. Air Quality and Brownfields Policy (CEQ)
9. Oceans Conservation (CEQ)

1

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Jim Connaughton
Keith Hennessey

SUBJECT: Climate Change Policy

President Bush has pursued an aggressive integrated policy approach that advances the interlinked challenges of sustained economic growth, energy security, and climate change. President Bush believes that effectively addressing climate change requires actions by all nations, particularly the major economies. Achieving this objective requires advances in both performance and cost of technologies that can provide a lasting solution at a meaningful scale. This, in turn, requires strong global economic growth so countries have the resources necessary to more rapidly invest in the best of today's technologies and more advanced technologies as they become available.

Summary of Results

Between 2002 and 2007, greenhouse gas emission intensity in the United States declined 9.8% during which time the U.S. enjoyed 14.7% GDP growth, placing the U.S. well on track to meeting the President's goal of reducing U.S. greenhouse gas intensity by 18% between 2002 and 2012. Additionally, while greenhouse gas emissions increased by 17.5% in absolute terms through the 1990s, since President Bush took office, net greenhouse gas emissions declined by 3% between 2000 and 2006. Among the major economies, only France – with lower economic growth and a strong reliance on nuclear power -- performed better during this period.

The President supported adoption of a series of carefully designed and cost-effective mandatory programs to substantially curb emissions. The most significant of these include:

1) National implementation of a September 2007 international agreement to accelerate the phaseout of hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC); this agreement includes binding commitments by major developing economies and will reduce global greenhouse gas emissions at least equal to or possibly three to four time more than the Kyoto Protocol is projected to achieve if parties meet their targets (which most are not);
2) National carbon-weighted renewable fuel standards requiring 36 billion gallons of fuel, a 500% increase in the mandated requirement representing about 15% reduction in petroleum consumption by 2022;
3) National vehicle fuel economy standards projected to reduce petroleum consumption by 8.5 billion gallons, a 40% improvement representing a 5% reduction in petroleum consumption by 2020;

4) National lighting efficiency standards achieving a 70% improvement by 2020 and the phase-out of most uses of incandescent bulbs;
5) More than 40 categories of appliance efficiency standards;
6) Legislative codification of the President's Executive Order 13423, requiring Federal operations to do such things as improve their energy efficiency by 30 percent by 2015 and increase alternative fuel consumption by at least 10% annually;
7) More than 25 state renewable power or low carbon power portfolio standards, modeled on programs like the one President Bush instituted in Texas when he was Governor, and covering the majority of the nation's power generation; renewable power use has increased by 500% since President Bush took office; and
8) State/local building efficiency codes and standards; in partnership with DOE, localities are considering Federally produced model building codes to achieve up to a 30% energy efficiency improvement.

President Bush also supported and secured a dramatic increase in public sector funding and financing to accelerate not only technology development, but also its wide scale deployment:

1) Approximately $3 billion annually from 2003 to 2007 in direct funding for research, development, demonstration and deployment (up from $1.7 billion in 2001); this increased significantly in 2008 to over $4 billion;
2) $25 billion in loan authority to help auto companies retool old factories to produce advanced vehicles and meet new fuel economy standards (up from $0 in 2001);
3) More than $40 billion in loan guarantee authority available in 2008 to deploy a new generation of nuclear power plants, more efficient and lower carbon coal power plants, renewable power facilities, and innovative projects that reduce, capture or sequester greenhouse gases or air pollutants (up from $0 in 2001);
4) Significant portion of more than $40 billion in Farm Bill conservation programs that will help sequester greenhouse gas emissions.

Integrated Policy Development and Management

The results summarized above were the product of a dedicated process of policy development and management. Shortly after entering office in 2001, the President directed a Cabinet-level review of U.S. climate change policy. This broad group of Cabinet officers and senior advisors to the President worked to develop innovative approaches to tackling climate change in accordance with several basic principles. Such approaches should: (1) be consistent with the long-term goal of stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere; (2) be measured, as we learn more from science and build on it; (3) be flexible to adjust to new information and take advantage of new technology; (4) ensure continued economic growth and prosperity; (5) pursue market-based incentives and spur technological innovation; and (6) be based on global participation, including developing countries. The President also commissioned the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences to provide an up to date assessment of the state of climate change science to help inform the policy and management deliberations.

The policy review group met as a whole at the Cabinet level close to a dozen times during 2001 and early 2002 to develop recommendations. The Chairman of the Council on Environmental

Quality, the Deputy Assistant to the President for International Economic Affairs, and the Deputy Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy also coordinated a series of strategy meetings with individual Cabinet members and an interagency network of policy and technical experts. Taking into account the assessment produced by the National Research Council, in June 2001, the policy review group issued a preliminary report, the "Climate Change Review." And following two major briefings with the President and several informal ones, in February 2002, the President adopted and announced the "U.S. Climate Change Strategy—*A New Approach.*"

In the Strategy, the President set a national goal to reduce the greenhouse gas intensity of our economy 18% by 2012. To oversee the Strategy and consider and advance additional policies, the President created a standing Cabinet-Level Committee on Climate Change Policy, a joint effort among the National Security Council, National Economic Council and Domestic Policy Council, coordinated by the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality. The President also established the Climate Change Science and Technology Integration Working Group, co-chaired by the Secretaries of Commerce and Energy, to carry out the day-to-day work of implementing each of the directives in the Strategy. The Administration launched the **U.S. Climate Change Science Program (CCSP)** in February 2002 to integrate research on climate and global change among U.S. Government departments and agencies. The CCSP, in coordination with the **Climate Change Technology Program (CCTP),** addresses issues at the intersection of science and technology. Between 2002 and 2008, CCSP related research received over $12.5 billion in funding. The President's 2009 budget request is over $2 billion.

Building on progress made under the Strategy, on April 16, 2008, President Bush set a new national goal to stop the growth of greenhouse gases by 2025. This goal takes into account significant new international, national, and state and local mandates, incentives, programs, and technology advances occurring since 2000 (described above). To achieve and sustain this goal, President Bush outlined further policy needs with respect to power generation and energy infrastructure, describing principles as to the right way and wrong way to approach additional regulatory or incentive-based actions to ensure measures are cost-effective, environmentally effective, and assure continued growth and prosperity.

As the President reinforced during the April 2008 speech in the Rose Garden, "I believe that Congressional debate should be guided by certain core principles and a clear appreciation that there is a wrong way and a right way to approach reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Bad legislation would impose tremendous costs on our economy and on American families without accomplishing the important climate change goals we share.

"The wrong way is to raise taxes, duplicate mandates, or demand sudden and drastic emissions cuts that have no chance of being realized and every chance of hurting our economy. The right way is to set realistic goals for reducing emissions consistent with advances in technology, while increasing our energy security and ensuring that our economy can continue to prosper and grow."

The wrong way is to adopt policies that would "sharply increase gasoline prices, home heating bills for American families, and the cost of energy for American businesses. The right way is to adopt policies that spur investment in the new technologies needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions more cost-effectively in the long term without placing unreasonable burdens on American consumers and workers in the short term.

"The wrong way is to jeopardize our energy and economic security by abandoning nuclear power and our Nation's huge reserves of coal. The right way is to promote more emission-free nuclear power and encourage the investments necessary to produce electricity from coal without releasing carbon into the air.

"The wrong way is to unilaterally impose regulatory costs that put American businesses at a disadvantage with their competitors abroad – which would simply drive American jobs overseas and increase emissions there. The right way is to ensure that all major economies are bound to take action and to work cooperatively with our partners for a fair and effective international climate agreement.

"The wrong way is to threaten punitive tariffs and protectionist barriers, start a carbon-based global trade war, and stifle the diffusion of new technologies. The right way is to work to make advanced technology affordable and available in the developing world, by lowering trade barriers, creating a global free market for clean energy technologies, and enhancing international cooperation and technology investment."

The President went on to say that "part of any solution means reforming today's complicated mix of incentives to make the development commercialization and use of new, lower emission technologies more competitive. Today, we have a different incentive for different technologies – from nuclear power, to clean coal, to wind, and solar energy. What we need to do is consolidate them into a single, expanded program with the following features:

> "First, the incentive should be carbon-weighted to make lower emission power sources less expensive relative to higher emissions sources, and it should take into account our Nation's energy security needs.
>
> "Second, the incentive should be technology-neutral because the government should not be picking winners and losers in this emerging market.
>
> "Third, the incentive should be long-lasting. It should provide a positive and reliable market signal not only for the investment in a technology, but also for the investments in domestic manufacturing capacity and infrastructure that will help lower costs and scale up availability."

Domestic Energy Initiatives Supporting Greenhouse Gas Reductions

To improve our nation's energy security in ways that significantly reduce air pollution and greenhouse gases, President Bush focused on the development and deployment of new, clean technologies to reduce our reliance on foreign sources of energy, and ultimately, to diversify away from a hydrocarbon society. The Administration is implementing policies to advance these objectives in the power generation, transportation, industrial and building sectors.

Many of the outcomes described above resulted from the Administration's unyielding focus on the need for comprehensive energy policy. The President entered office calling on Congress to pass the first national energy plan in a generation. In April 2001, he proposed a comprehensive national energy plan to: encourage conservation and energy efficiency; expand the use of alternative and renewable energy; increase the domestic production of conventional fuels; and invest in modernization of our energy infrastructure. The plan included actions the Administration could carry out using existing authorities as well as proposals that required Congress to enact comprehensive energy legislation.

In his January 2003 State of the Union Address the President proposed $1.2 billion in research funding to develop clean, hydrogen-powered automobiles. This new national commitment allowed scientists and engineers to overcome obstacles in taking these cars from the laboratory to the showroom. The President also identified his goal to promote energy independence, while dramatically improving the environment by sending to Congress his comprehensive energy plan to promote energy efficiency and conservation, to develop cleaner technology, and to produce more domestic energy. In 2003, the President sent Clear Skies legislation to Congress that mandated a 70-percent cut in air pollution from power plants over the next 15 years.

In August 2005, the President signed the **2005 Energy Policy Act (EPAct)** which provided a number of tools to help ensure that renewable energy will become a viable, affordable source of energy to power our homes, businesses and industries. The EPAct also included a number of provisions to help develop a new generation of more efficient, lower carbon coal-fired power plants, and to facilitate a renaissance of investment in zero-emission nuclear power.

In his 2006 State of the Union Address, President Bush announced the **Advanced Energy Initiative (AEI)**, aimed at confronting America's energy challenges by changing the way we power our homes and vehicles. The AEI promotes economic and national security by reducing our dependence on foreign sources of energy. It provided for a 22-percent increase in funding for clean-energy technology research at the Department of Energy. The initiative is an investment in zero-emission coal-fired plants, revolutionary solar and wind technologies, and clean, safe nuclear energy. The program increases our research in better batteries for hybrid and electric cars and in pollution-free cars that run on hydrogen. It also funds additional research in cutting-edge methods of producing ethanol, not just from corn, but from wood chips, stalks, or switch grass.

To further reduce American dependence on oil and reduce emissions, in his 2007 State of the Union Address, the President asked Congress to join him in pursuing the goal of reducing U.S. gasoline usage by 20 percent in the next ten years – the **"Twenty In Ten Initiative."** The bill will increase the supply of alternative fuel sources by setting a mandatory Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) requiring fuel producers to use at least 36 billion gallons of biofuel in 2022. The President also issued Executive Order 13423 requiring Federal operations to improve their energy efficiency by 30 percent by 2015, increase alternative fuel consumption by at least 10 percent annually, reduce petroleum consumption in fleet vehicles annually through 2015, purchase 50 percent of current renewable energy purchases from new renewable resources, and increase purchases of alternative fuel vehicles, among numerous other environmental stewardship requirements.

Less than a year later, in December 2007, President Bush signed the **Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007**. The bill builds on progress made by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 in setting out a comprehensive energy strategy for the 21st century, and directly responded to the challenge of the President's **"Twenty in Ten Initiative"** and 2007 Executive Order. It represents a major step forward in expanding the production of renewable fuels, reducing our dependence on oil, and confronting global climate change. It will increase our energy security, expand the production of renewable fuels, and make America stronger, safer, and cleaner for future generations. The legislation's national-level programs address the most significant economic sectors, including mandates on renewable fuels, vehicle fuel economy, lighting efficiency, appliance efficiency, and Federal government operations, and will avoid approximately 5 billion tons of carbon dioxide emissions from entering the atmosphere between 2008 to 2030.

To secure our long term electric power generation needs, we are working to strengthen and increase the availability of domestic sources – abundant renewable energy, clean coal, and emission-free nuclear power, as well as massive "reserves" of energy efficiency and conservation.

Public Private Partnerships

In addition to the major mandatory programs and incentives, cooperative public-private partnerships with key industrial sectors played a prominent role in the President's climate change strategy. For example, in early 2003, the Administration launched **Climate VISION** to help advance the United State's energy intensity target. The Administration recognized that achieving this aim will require a combination of short-, medium-, and long-term actions. The Administration has adopted policies to encourage industry to take voluntary actions using available, cost-effective technologies and best practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions intensity. The Administration's plans also include a major joint effort by industry and government to develop advanced technologies and use them commercially across the economy to increase energy efficiency and reduce, avoid, or sequester greenhouse gas emissions.

Since the program began, it has grown to include business associations and trade groups representing 14 energy-intensive industrial sectors and the Business Roundtable on Climate VISION partners. Each has made a commitment to contribute to meeting the President's 18 percent intensity reduction goal by improving energy efficiency or greenhouse gas emissions intensity of its sector. These Climate VISION partners, which include some of the largest companies in America, represent a broad range of industry sectors: oil and gas production, transportation, and refining; electricity generation; coal and mineral production and mining; manufacturing (automobiles, cement, iron and steel, magnesium, aluminum, chemicals, and semiconductors); railroads; and forestry products.

Climate VISION is just one of a broad series of such partnerships. Others include: Climate Leaders, Carbon Sequestration Program, Nuclear Power 2010, Smartway Transportation

Partnership, Energy Star, Natural Gas Star, Combined Heat and Power Partnership, Freedom CAR Partnership, and the Federal Energy Management Program.

International Policy

THE SITUATION AS WE FOUND IT:

When the President entered office in 2001, the international climate change debate was focused on commitments by developed countries alone to make deep cuts in CO2 emissions, without due regard for the potential impact on economic growth and the prospect of emissions "leakage"—simply moving jobs and associated emissions from the U.S. to other, less efficient countries that do not bear comparable constraints, with the likely outcome being a net increase in emissions.

The United States was under significant international pressure to ratify the 1997 Kyoto Protocol to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The United States is party to the UNFCCC, the international treaty that addresses climate change. Kyoto requires industrialized countries to take binding measures to lower greenhouse gas emissions, but exempts half of the word's population, including major developing economies like India and China, from mandatory emissions reductions, thus mitigating overall effectiveness of the endeavor. The prior Administration signed the Kyoto Protocol, almost immediately indicated it was not ratifiable in the Senate, and therefore never transmitted it to the Senate for ratification.

THIS ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY:

During the 2000 campaign and upon entering office in 2001, President Bush publicly declared what the prior Administration had already decided: that the U.S. would not adopt the Kyoto Protocol on grounds that it was imbalanced, inefficient, and would have had a negative impact on the U.S. economy. It is estimated that complying with Kyoto would have cost the United States up to $400 billion, resulting in the loss of up to 4.9 million jobs, without commensurate benefits in greenhouse gas reductions.

Instead, over the last eight years, the United States employed a forward-looking, cooperative approach to energy security and climate change, with a focus on: (1) investments in research and development of clean energy technologies; (2) supporting deployment of clean technologies in developing countries through partnerships and other multilateral efforts; and, (3) ensuring that international efforts to address climate change involve major emerging economies rather than developed countries alone.

The Administration has acted on these objectives. First, since 2001, the Administration has worked with Congress to devote nearly $18 billion to researching, developing, and bringing to market clean and efficient energy technologies. Second, the Administration has promoted and supported deployment of clean energy and other climate change technologies in developing countries through a variety of programs, most recently and significantly, the U.S.-initiated Clean Technology Fund established in July 2008 with over $5 billion in international pledges. The Administration has launched and participated in numerous international partnerships that advance objectives ranging from developing transformational low-carbon technologies to improving global observation systems that help us understand and address climate change. Third, the Administration continues to work with key partners through the UNFCCC, the Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate (APP), which the President launched in July 2005, and the Major Economies Meeting on Energy Security and Climate Change (MEM), which the President launched in September 2007, to reinforce and accelerate global efforts to combat climate change Through this international engagement, the Administration has successfully transformed the climate change debate to include not only developed countries but also major developing economies.

WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED:

International Engagement

The Bush Administration is responsible for developing several measures that address the interlinked challenges of energy security and climate change. During the past eight years, we implemented numerous policies and international partnerships that seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and develop transformative technologies. The United States is a leader in investing in clean energy technology. This Administration invested more money than any previous Administration -- nearly $45 billion since 2001 – in programs that address climate change.

Recognizing that negotiations toward a post-2012 climate change agreement cannot succeed practically or politically on the basis of greenhouse gas emissions reduction commitments by developed countries alone, the President launched – and the G-8 and APEC endorsed – the **Major Economies Meetings on Energy Security and Climate Change (MEM).** The MEM brings together the world's biggest energy consumers and greenhouse gas emitters[1] – with industrialized and emerging economies on equal footing – in a dialogue aimed at supporting the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations. Since the MEM launch, a growing portion of the international community has come to recognize that, to be effective, a global framework will require a commitment by all Major Economies take actions to reduce emissions.

Leaders Representatives of the MEM countries met in Washington (September 2007), Honolulu (February 2008), Paris (April 2008), and Korea (June 2008) to discuss the key elements of an environmentally effective, economically sustainable post-2012 climate change agreement. Leaders of the Major Economies gathered for an unprecedented meeting directly following the G-8 Summit in Toyako in July 2008 and issued a declaration in which they: 1) recognized their "leadership role" in combating climate change; 2) stressed the link between climate change, energy security, and economic growth; 3) called for an "ambitious" (albeit unquantified) global long-term greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal, recognizing that achieving this goal depends on major advances in technology; 4) called for national mitigation plans to be reflected in a post-2012 arrangement, with developed major economies committing to absolute reduction and developing countries achieving deviations from "business as usual"; and, 5) agreed to pursue key early actions, including sectoral approaches, technology cooperation, enhanced measurement systems, and intensified WTO discussions on trade issues relevant to climate change.

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[1] Parties to the MEM include: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the European Union, France, Germany, Indonesia, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, Russia, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

While initially greeted with skepticism in some quarters, the MEM participants and their Leaders were ultimately unanimous in their support for the process and the need to carrying it forward. The MEM process also succeeded in shifting the climate change dialogue out of the G-8 and into a forum where developed and developing major economies are represented. While some climate change issues are appropriate G-8 agenda items, such as finance and technology initiatives launched by the G-8, discussions on a long-term emissions reduction goal are more effectively addressed in the MEM where emerging economies are engaged. Through our engagement, Italy has agreed to limit discussions on global emissions reduction targets to the MEM during their upcoming G-8 Presidency. The MEM now represents one of the most consequential elements of U.S. climate change diplomacy.

Key Partnerships

The MEM builds on the success of the **Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate (APP),** launched in July 2005. The APP provides a unique public-private forum for government and industry leaders from seven of the world's largest economies – both industrialized and emerging – to accelerate the development and deployment of clean energy technologies in the energy intensive sectors of the partner countries. The seven partner countries –Australia, Canada, China, India, Japan, and South Korea – represent close to half of the world's economy, population, and energy use, and produce 65% of the world's coal, more than 60% of the world's steel, 52% of the world's aluminum, and 61% of the world's cement. The APP provides a practical bottom-up approach that directly engages industry as equal partners in the Partnership's eight sector Task Forces, and establishes a collaborative working structure. The strategic success of the APP is found in the increased frequency and willingness of China and India to engage on climate change and energy security issues. Prior to the APP, India and China avoided discussions on the world stage about their ability to address climate change challenges. Successful APP projects such as the installation of hybrid-powered buses in China's Guangzhou province and the development of energy efficiency labeling for major appliances in India, have given these countries confidence that there are many practical steps they can take to contribute to a global solution.

The Bush Administration led efforts to produce an international agreement to accelerate the phase-out of the hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) refrigerants – a potent greenhouse gas - under the **Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer** in 2007. The agreement under the Montreal Protocol to accelerate the phase-out of HCFCs also marked the first time both developed and developing countries explicitly agreed to accept binding and enforceable commitments to address climate change. This success provides a useful contrast to the intractable nature of the negotiations under the UNFCCC. The acceleration of the phase out of HCFCs could result in climate benefits of 18,000 million metric tons of CO2 equivalent and is projected to prevent more greenhouse gases from going into the atmosphere than the Kyoto Protocol, possibly by a factor of three or four times.

The Administration also supported efforts to develop technologies that will produce clean and renewable energy globally. In March 2007, President Bush gave a major address at the U.S.-hosted **Washington International Renewable Energy Conference (WIREC)**, which drew over

9,000 participants from governments, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. The conference included 103 ministers representing environment, energy, economic, and scientific branches of governments from around the world. The conference participants submitted over 140 pledge commitments to implement renewable energy projects.

The Administration has focused on strengthened international cooperation on transformative research and practical steps to help bring to market a new generation of technologies. Most recently, the U.S. launched the **Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP)** in January 2006 to support a lasting solution to the international challenges of safe management of nuclear waste and secure expansion of peaceful nuclear power. Twenty-one countries have since become GNEP partners.[2] Under GNEP, this and future Administrations will pursue technological breakthroughs that will dramatically reduce the amount of waste needing permanent disposal. The United States has adopted research coordination arrangements with Japan, Australia, and France to support GNEP. The initiative also seeks to ensure developing countries can pursue nuclear power without establishing the kinds of facilities that add to proliferation risks.

In 2003, President Bush announced the **Carbon Sequestration Initiative** and the creation of the **Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum (CSLF)**, an international initiative that brings together international experts, stakeholders, and government representatives to address ways to develop new cost-effective technologies that enable clean use of fossil fuels. The CSLF demonstrates the Administration's commitment to developing the cost-effective technologies that will capture, separate, transport, and store the carbon emitted by combustion of fossil fuels. The CSLF, in coordination with the IEA, has called for the launching of 20 large carbon capture and storage projects by 2010 and widespread deployment by 2020, goals endorsed by G-8 leaders in July 2008. CSLF has also conducted four capacity building workshops, which have reached 600 participants, on how to design and implement policies to promote carbon capture and storage.

The **Methane-to-Markets Partnership (M2M),** launched in 2003, brings together several partner countries to develop ways to capture and use methane – currently wasted from leaky oil and gas systems, underground coal mines, and landfills – as a new energy source. In 2004, the United States pledged up to $53 million to support M2M over the first five years; through 2008, the United States has contributed approximately $38 million. To date, U.S. contributions have leveraged over $270 millions in public and private sector investments and are supporting projects that, when fully implemented, will reduce methane emissions by an estimated 24 million metric tons of CO2 equivalents.

In 2003, the United States launched and hosted the inaugural meeting of the **International Partnership for a Hydrogen Economy (IPHE)** whose 17 partners organize, evaluate, and coordinate multinational research, development, and deployment programs that advance hydrogen and fuel cell technologies on a global scale. Since its formation, IPHE has endorsed 30 international collaborative partnerships covering several areas including demonstration projects, fuel cells, hydrogen production, and hydrogen storage. IPHE has also organized a series of

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[2] GNEP partners include: Armenia, Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Estonia, France, Ghana, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, Lithuania, Morocco, Oman, Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Slovenia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

workshops that brought together more than 500 technical experts across 25 countries to identify key areas for R&D collaboration.

President Bush's **Initiative Against Illegal Logging**, established in 2003, assists developing countries in combating illegal logging and in fighting corruption in the forest sector. This initiative reinforces U.S. leadership in preserving forest resources that store carbon. As part of this initiative, the United States signed a bilateral partnership to combat illegal logging and associated trade with Indonesia in 2006, which established a working group under the existing U.S.-Indonesia Trade and Investment Framework Agreement. In December 2007, the United States signed a MOU on illegal logging and associated trade with China, the first-ever commitment between these two countries to address illegal logging and trade in illegally harvested timber. To date, we have concluded over 14 debt-for-nature agreements with 12 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, generating $188 million over 10-25 years to help conserve more the 20 million hectares of tropical forests. We have also invested over $100 million in conservation programs as part of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership.

FUTURE CHALLENGES:

The United States should continue to engage in the many successful bilateral and multilateral international partnerships launched during this Administration, such as the MEM and the APP. In the UN negotiations, a commitment by both major industrialized and emerging economies to curb greenhouse gas emissions is necessary for a future post-2012 climate change agreement to be environmentally effective and economically sustainable. Key to this effort will be getting the EU to work with us to secure commitments from the developing countries. The Europeans have only recently started to call for developing countries to make comparable contributions to the best of their ability.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY SECURITY POLICY (2000-2008)

January 29, 2001

President Bush delivers remarks on energy policy in the Cabinet room and establishes the National Energy Policy Development Group comprised of Vice President Cheney, Commerce Secretary Evans, Energy Secretary Abraham, and other senior members to develop a comprehensive national energy plan.

February 28, 2001

President Bush releases an Economic Blueprint, including in its agenda the development of a national comprehensive energy plan. The fiscal 2002 Budget proposes more than $2 billion over ten years toward research programs to clean coal technologies, and $1.2 billion beginning in 2004 for Arctic National Wildlife Refuge bid bonuses to fund research on solar and renewable energy technology research and development. Actual climate funding, including technology, science, incentives, and international assistance, for 2002 reaches $3.8 billion.

March 2, 2001

The President delivers remarks at the swearing-in ceremony for Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham, outlining the national priorities of increasing environmentally friendly exploration and production of domestic sources of energy, and the development of cost-effective alternative energy sources.

March 13, 2001

President Bush sends a letter to Senators Hagel, Helms, Craig, and Roberts responding to their March 6 letter seeking the Administration's views on global climate change and the Kyoto Protocol. President Bush explains that he opposes the Kyoto Protocol because it exempts 80 percent of the world, including major population centers such as China and India, from compliance, and would cause serious harm to the U.S. economy. He states his intention to work with the Congress on a multipollutant strategy to require power plants to reduce emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and mercury. He also states that he does not believe that the government should impose on power plants mandatory emissions reductions for carbon dioxide, which is not a "pollutant" under the Clean Air Act. However, the U.S. will continue to fully examine global climate change issues -- including the science, technologies, market-based systems, and innovative options for addressing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The President also establishes a Cabinet-level working group on climate change.

March 29, 2001

In a joint statement by President Bush and Chancellor Schroeder of Germany, the two leaders acknowledge their differing views on the Kyoto Protocol, while agreeing to work constructively with allies to develop technologies, market-based incentives, and other innovative approaches to meeting the challenge of global climate change.

Press Conference
President Bush fields questions on energy and climate change and explains that he no longer supports mandatory carbon caps because the country is facing an energy crisis, and mandatory caps would require additional natural gas, for which the U.S. does not have the necessary infrastructure.

May 3, 2001

After meeting with his energy advisors, President Bush delivers remarks in the Roosevelt Room on the need for the U.S. to improve energy efficiency and further develop sources of domestic energy.

Memorandum
President Bush issues a memorandum directing the heads of executive departments and agencies to take appropriate actions to conserve energy use at their facilities. Agencies are required to review their existing operating and administrative processes and conservation programs, and identify and implement ways to reduce energy use. Finally, agencies must report to the President within 30 days, through the Secretary of Energy, on the conservation actions taken.

May 11, 2001

John Bridgeland, Deputy Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy and Director, Domestic Policy Council, and Gary Edson, Deputy Assistant to the President for International Economic Affairs, send a letter to Dr. Bruce Alberts of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) seeking, "the Academy's assistance in identifying the areas in the science of climate change where there are the greatest certainties and uncertainties." They also request the NAS' views on whether there are any substantive differences between the IPCC reports and their summaries.

May 16, 2001

The National Energy Policy Development Group delivers its report to the President and his Cabinet, outlining over 100 proposals to diversify and increase the supply of energy and innovative proposals to encourage conservation.

May 18, 2001

Executive Order
President Bush issues an Executive Order requiring all agencies to prepare and submit a Statement of Energy Effects to the Administrator of the Office of Information and

Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, for matters identified as significant energy actions.

June 6, 2001

The National Academies' National Research Council (NRC) submits a report, *Climate Change Science: An Analysis of Some Key Questions*, to the White House, requested by the Administration, to sum up the science's current understanding of global climate change.

June 11, 2001

President Bush Discusses Global Climate Change
The President's Cabinet-level working group on climate change delivers a comprehensive report summarizing current U.S. actions, an analysis of the Kyoto Protocol, and proposals to advance the science and technologies, and create global partnerships in the Western Hemisphere and throughout the world to address climate change.

Statement
President Bush delivers remarks on effective ways to address climate change. He states that the National Academy of Science indicates that increases in global temperatures are due in large part to human activity, but that scientific uncertainties remain about whether and how fast change will occur in the future. Based on the recommendation of the NRC report, he announces that his Administration will establish the U.S. Climate Change Research Initiative to study areas of scientific uncertainty and identify priority areas where investment in R&D can make a difference. He also announces the creation of the National Climate Change Technology Initiative to strengthen research and develop improved technology for measuring and monitoring gross and net greenhouse gas emissions. He commits the U.S. to work within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and elsewhere to develop an effective and science-based response to the issue of global warming. He calls on Congress to work with the Administration on initiatives to enhance energy conservation and efficiency outlined in his energy plan, to implement the increased use of renewables, natural gas, and hydropower, and to increase the generation of safe and clean nuclear power. He proposes a joint venture with the EU, Japan, and other countries to develop state-of the art climate modeling to improve our understanding the causes and impacts of climate change.

June 28, 2001

President Bush delivers remarks to the employees of the Department of Energy and announces $85.7 million in federal grants to encourage academia and the private sector to leverage private sector funding to accelerate the development of fuel cells, advanced engines, hydro-technology, and efficient appliances for American consumers.

White House Energy Savings Plan
The President announces a series of energy saving measures for the White House offices that could result in an estimated 25% to 35% reduction in energy usage.

To the Congress of the United States
The President transmits to the Congress proposals contained in the National Energy Policy report that require legislative action.

July 13, 2001

Statement: President's Statement on Climate Change
President Bush reports on the progress of initiatives advanced by the Cabinet-level climate change working group. The Secretary of Commerce will convene an interagency work group to develop a federal research plan to enhance our understanding of climate change; the Department of Energy signs two agreements to begin research projects on carbon sequestration; and NASA commits to invest over $120 million in the next three years in research on the natural carbon cycle, climate modeling, and the link between atmospheric chemistry and climate.

July 19, 2001

The United States and Italy pledge joint research in atmospheric studies related to climate, low carbon technologies, global and regional climate modeling, and carbon cycle research.

July 22, 2001

G-7/8 Summit in Genoa, Italy
The President attends the G7/8 Summit in Genoa, Italy. At the Summit, the U.S. and Japan begin a series of high-level consultations on climate change, and the U.S. and E.U. initiate similar consultations. The U.S. and Central America agree to intensify their cooperation on climate change through the Concausa Declaration. The Renewable Energy Task Force, established by leaders at the 2000 G-8 meeting in Okinawa, Japan, transmits its report with recommendations to encourage and promote the use of renewable energy.

July 31, 2001

Executive Order
The President issues an Executive Order directing each executive agency to purchase products that use no more than one watt in their standby power consuming mode when it purchases commercially available, off-the-shelf products that use external standby power devices, or that contain an internal standby power function.

September 10, 2001

In a joint statement between the Untied States and Australia, President Bush and Prime Minister Howard agree that climate change is a serious long-term challenge and express their commitment to develop an effective and science-based response.

February 4, 2002

The President submits his fiscal year 2003 Budget to Congress, which includes climate-related funding for technology, science, incentives and international assistance. During 2003, climate spending is $5.5 billion, totaling $13.1 billion since 2001.

February 14, 2002

The President adopts and announces the "U.S. Climate Change Strategy – A New Approach." In the Strategy, the President sets a national goal to reduce the greenhouse gas intensity of our economy by 18% by 2012. To oversee the Strategy and consider and advance additional policies, the President creates a standing Cabinet-Level Committee on Climate Change Policy, a joint effort among the National Security Council, National Economic Council and Domestic Policy Council, coordinated by the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality. The President also establishes the Climate Change Science and Technology Integration Working Group, co-chaired by the Secretaries of Commerce and Energy, to carry out the day to day implementation of the Strategy's directives. The President directs the Secretary of Energy, working with the Secretaries of Commerce and Agriculture, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to propose improvements to the current greenhouse gas registry to "enhance measurement accuracy, reliability and verifiability, working with and taking into account emerging domestic and international approaches." President Bush also announces the Clear Skies Initiative, the most aggressive initiative in American history to cut power plant emissions. The Clear Skies Initiative uses a market-based approach to cut fossil fuel power plant emissions of the three most harmful pollutants—nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and mercury—by 70 percent.

May 24, 2002

President Bush and President Putin of Russia announce a new bilateral energy dialogue to strengthen global energy security and international strategic stability.

July 11, 2002

CEQ Chairman Connaughton, CEA Chairman Hubbard, and OSTP Chairman Marburger testify before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation on United States Global Climate Change Strategy.

January 28, 2003

State of the Union Address

In his State of the Union Address, President Bush proposes $1.2 billion in research funding for the development of clean, hydrogen fueled vehicles—and the infrastructure to support them to help America reduce its dependence on foreign oil. The Hydrogen Fuel Initiative includes $720 million in new funding over the next five years to develop the technologies and infrastructure to produce, store, and distribute hydrogen for use in fuel cell vehicles and electricity generation.

January 30, 2003

The President announces that the US will join with Canada, Europe, Japan, Russia, and China in creating the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER), an ambitious international research project to develop fusion energy opportunities.

February 3, 2003

The President submits his fiscal year 2004 Budget to Congress, that supports the multi year $1.7 billion for the hydrogen fuel initiative and FreedomCAR programs for hydrogen fuel cell research and development to ensure the next generation of automobiles are pollution free. During 2004, climate spending is $5.6 billion, totaling $18.7 billion since 2001.

February 6, 2003

The President delivers remarks on energy independence at the National Building Museum, touring hydrogen fuel cell vehicles and discussing the importance of hydrogen technology initiatives. The Department of Energy and the Department of Transportation initiate the International Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy, under which partner countries commit to accelerate the development of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies to improve their energy, environmental, and economic security.

June 2, 2003

President Bush attends the 2003 G-8 Summit in Evian, France. He joins fellow G-8 Leaders in agreeing on an Action Plan on Science & Technology designed to protect the environment while growing our economies. The G-8 Action Plan builds on U.S. initiatives to develop transformational technologies for: more affordable, more proliferation-resistant nuclear technologies for the near future; cleaner coal for global deployment within a decade; and cost-competitive hydrogen fuel cell vehicles within 20 years.

June 20, 2003

President Bush and President Lula of Brazil agree to launch a broad, bilateral energy partnership that will focus on hydrogen energy, carbon sequestration, electricity modernization, renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies, and offshore energy infrastructure safety. Secretary Abraham and Minister Rousseff sign a

Memorandum of Understanding to establish a mechanism for consultations on energy cooperation in these areas.

June 25, 2003

At the U.S.-E.U. Summit, the United States and the European Union agree to collaborate on the acceleration of the development of the hydrogen economy.

July 28, 2003

President Bush announces a new international initiative to help developing nations stop illegal logging. The President's Initiative Against Illegal Logging prevents the destruction of thousands of acres of forest habitat and the release of millions of tons of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

September 16, 2003

In remarks in the East Garden, President Bush calls on Congress to pass the Clear Skies legislation, which mandates a 70 percent cut in harmful air pollution from power plants over the next 15 years, including the first-ever national cap on mercury emissions. The legislation calls for cuts in sulfur dioxide (SO_2) emissions by 73 percent, emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) by 67 percent, and mercury (Hg) emissions by 69 percent.

October 21, 2003

President Bush, along with other members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), endorse the APEC Energy Action Plan. Under the action plan, APEC countries seek to: 1) expand the trade of natural gas, particularly liquefied natural gas (LNG), by creating an on-line Gas Market Data System and share of best practices; 2) strengthen energy emergency response planning and establish a real-time information sharing and coordination system; 3) promote investment in clean and efficient energy sources and technologies in cooperation with the private sector and financial institutions; 4) identify opportunities to develop hydrogen and fuel cell technologies and cooperate with the International Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy; and 5) promote collaborative research on methane hydrates, an important future source of natural gas.

November 14, 2003

The House of Representatives and the Senate agree on an energy bill which supports the President's six-point economic plan to create the conditions for job creation and a sustained recovery.

February 2, 2004

The President submits his fiscal year 2005 Budget to Congress, which includes climate-related funding for technology, science, incentives and international assistance. During 2005, climate spending is $5.3 billion, totaling $24 billion since 2001.

June 1-4, 2004

Germany hosts an International Conference on Renewable Energy in Bonn. Government Ministers from around the world attend the Ministerial portion of the Conference.

June 8-10, 2004

The President attends the 2004 G-8 Summit in Sea Island, Georgia. He and fellow G-8 leaders commit to launch the "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (3Rs) Initiative" to encourage more efficient use of resources and materials.

June 26, 2004

The United States and EU reaffirm their commitment to cooperate on the development of a hydrogen economy at the US-EU Summit held in Shannon, Ireland.

July 28, 2004

Statement: President Bush Announces Methane to Markets Partnership
President Bush announces that the United States will be joined by Australia, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom in the creation of a Methane to Markets (M2M) Partnership. Under the Partnership, members will work in coordination with the private sector to share and expand the use of technologies to capture methane – a potent greenhouse gas – emissions that are now wasted in the course of industrial processes and use them as a new energy source. The United States commits to spending $52 million on the project over the course of five years.

February 2, 2005

State of the Union
In his State of the Union address, President Bush urges Congress to pass legislation that will make America more secure and less dependent on foreign energy.

February 7, 2005

The President submits his fiscal year 2006 Budget which 2006 includes over $1 billion to support the development of reliable, affordable, and emissions-free sources of energy, including hydrogen fuel, clean coal, and cutting-edge nuclear technology. With additional programs, total spending on climate-related technology, science, incentives, and international assistance research and incentives exceeds $29.9 billion since 2001.

February 23, 2005

President Bush travels to Mainz, Germany and meets with Chancellor Shroeder. The U.S. and Germany agree to broaden and reinforce their activities in three areas of common action, including: 1) joint activities to further develop and deploy cleaner, more efficient technologies to support sustainable development; 2) cooperation in advancing climate science, and developing effective national tools for policy action; and, 3) joint action to raise the efficiency of the energy sector and address air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions in our own countries and around the world.

February 24, 2005

Statement: Joint Statement by President Bush and President Putin on US-Russian Energy Cooperation
President Bush and President Putin of Russia issue a joint declaration directing the U.S. and Russian Ministers of Energy and Commerce to meet to develop recommendations on ways to intensify and develop further the bilateral energy dialogue, including through the mechanisms of the Energy Working Group and the Commercial Energy Dialogue. The Presidents set a goal of identifying concrete trade and investment opportunities for U.S. and Russian firms, including in support of Russia's pipeline and liquefied natural gas development and increased Russian oil and gas imports to U.S. markets; and targeting the initiation of several such projects no later than 2008.

March 9, 2005

Remarks by the President
President Bush visits the Franklin County Veterans Memorial in Columbus, Ohio, and delivers remarks on energy. He calls on Congress to pass energy legislation meeting the following four national objectives: promote conservation and efficiency, increase domestic production, diversify our energy supply, and modernize our energy infrastructure. He notes that these goals must be pursued while also upholding our responsibility to be good stewards of the environment.

April 20, 2005

The President gives remarks before the members of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce regarding energy policy, stressing the need for comprehensive energy legislation to sustain the economic growth of the last two years and outlining a plan to put the U.S. on a path toward greater energy independence.

April 21, 2005

Statement on House Passing Energy Bill
The President issues a statement thanking the House of Representatives for passing energy legislation consistent with the key objectives of his comprehensive national energy policy.

April 27, 2005

The President discusses energy policy at the National Small Business Conference. The President outlines his broad vision for moving America toward greater energy independence and announced five new energy policy initiatives. The Department of Energy (DOE) will work to reduce uncertainty in the licensing process for new nuclear power plants and to provide Federal risk insurance to mitigate the additional cost of unforeseen delays. The Environmental Protection Agency will simplify regulations to encourage the expansion of refining capacity, and Federal agencies will work with States and local communities to encourage the construction of new refineries on closed military sites. The President promises to call on Congress to make clear federal authority over siting of new Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminals to increase supply and reduce prices. The President agrees to support the extension of his proposed tax credits for energy-efficient hybrid and fuel-cell vehicles to include clean-diesel vehicles. The President encourages the deployment of new and clean energy technologies in the developing world at the G-8 Summit in July.

May 16, 2005

The President visits Virginia Biodiesel Refinery and delivers remarks on biodiesel and alternative fuels, stressing the need to promote greater energy independence through the use of renewable energy sources like biodiesel and ethanol and new technologies like clean diesel.

June 20, 2005

President Bush hosts the 2005 US-EU Summit. The United States and the European Union commit to continue to address energy efficiency through effective policy measures and technology, achieving security of energy supply, and helping the developing world address energy challenges.

July 8, 2005

President Bush and his fellow G-8 leaders meet in Gleneagles, Scotland, and agree on a far-reaching Plan of Action with more than 40 programs to speed the development and deployment of clean energy technologies to achieve the combined goals of addressing climate change, reducing harmful air pollution, and improving energy security in the U.S. and throughout the world. The Gleneagles Dialogue on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainable Development is launched.

July 18, 2005

In a joint statement, the President and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh pledge to work together to achieve full civil nuclear energy cooperation between the United States and India.

July 27, 2005

Statement: President's Statement on U.S. Joining New Asia-Pacific Partnership
President Bush announces that the U.S. is pleased to launch and be joined by Australia, China, India, Japan, and South Korea to create a new Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate. This partnership focuses on practical measures taken by these seven countries in the Asia-Pacific region to create new investment opportunities, build local capacity, and remove barriers to the introduction of clean, more efficient technologies.

August 8, 2005

President Bush signs the Energy Policy Act of 2005, giving America a comprehensive national energy plan for the first time in over a decade. The bill includes actions to encourage energy efficiency, to expand the use of alternative and renewable energy, to increase domestic production of conventional fuels, and to encourage investment in our energy infrastructure. The energy bill also establishes a Renewable Fuel Standard that requires annual use of 7.5 billion gallons of ethanol and biodiesel in the nation's fuel supply by 2012, authorizes full funding for the President's Hydrogen Fuel Initiative, along with other technology program authorization in the areas of solar, etc., and includes the creation of a tax credit of up to $3,400 for the purchase of highly fuel efficient hybrid electric-gasoline vehicles and diesel vehicles. All of these programs will significantly advance the technologies and actions to cut air pollution and greenhouse gases both in the near- and long-term.

November 15-21, 2005

President Bush and the other leaders of APEC's 21 member economies come together to respond to energy supply and demand challenges. The leaders acknowledge that access to clean, reliable, and affordable energy requires strengthened efforts to develop and deploy advanced energy technologies, such as renewables, clean coal, and advanced nuclear power with enhanced safety features, as well as to adopt energy-efficient technologies, processes, and practices.

January 31, 2006

State of the Union:
In his State of the Union Address, President Bush announces the Advanced Energy Initiative, a 22 percent increase in funding for clean energy research to power homes and businesses and fuel vehicles. The initiative also contains a goal to replace 75 percent of oil imports from the Middle East by 2025 with alternative energy sources.

February 6, 2006

The President submits his fiscal year 2007 Budget to Congress, which includes climate-related funding for technology, science, incentives and international assistance. During 2007, climate spending is $7.0 billion, totaling $36.9 billion since 2001.

March 2, 2006

President Bush meets with Prime Minister Singh of India to discuss their growing strategic partnership, and India announces it will join the FutureGen international partnership, which will work to create a zero-emissions coal-fired power plant, enabling greater use of coal in an environmentally sustainable way.

April 21, 2006

The Department of Energy publishes the final revised General Guidelines governing the Voluntary Reporting of Greenhouse Gases (1605(b)).

June 21, 2006

President Bush participates in the 2006 U.S.-E.U. Summit in Vienna, Austria. He joins with his E.U. counterparts in adopting a set of principles to promote energy security, including advancing the development of new lower-pollution and lower-carbon technologies and accelerating investment in more efficient, cleaner use of fossil sources and renewable sources.

July 15-17, 2006

President Bush attends the G-8 Summit in St. Petersburg, Russia. He and fellow G-8 leaders agree to enhance global energy security through a Plan of Action focusing on increasing transparency, predictability, and stability of global energy markets; improving the investment climate in the energy sector; enhancing energy efficiency and energy saving, including promoting new technologies; diversifying the energy mix, energy suppliers, and routes/modes of transit; ensuring physical security of critical energy infrastructure; reducing energy poverty; and addressing climate change and sustainable development.

July 17, 2006

President Bush and President Lula of Brazil deliver joint remarks during which President Lula extends an unofficial invitation to build a partnership on alternative fuels.

September 20, 2006

Statement: President's Statement on the Creation of the Strategic Economic Dialogue President Bush announces the creation of the Strategic Economic Dialogue between the United States and China. Energy and the environment are two of many challenges China and the United Stateswill work together to address under the dialogue.

October 12, 2006

President Bush designates October 2006 as National Energy Awareness Month and encourages Americans to take steps to conserve energy and develop responsible habits that will reduce energy consumption in their everyday lives.

November 17, 2006

While attending the 2006 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation in Hanoi, Vietnam, President Bush and fellow leaders welcomed the work of the APEC Biofuels Task Force and pledge to strengthen their joint efforts to develop and make use of clean energy technologies.

January 23, 2007

State of the Union Address
In his State of the Union Address, President Bush announces his "Twenty in Ten" plan, calling on Congress to reduce gasoline usage in the United States by 20 percent in the next 10 years. To meet this goal, the President calls for mandatory fuels standard to require 35 billion gallons of renewable and alternative fuels in 2017. The President also proposed to improve and reform Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards to conserve up to 8.5 billion more gallons of gasoline by 2017. Combined, these two programs would reduce projected domestic gasoline consumption by 20 percent in 2017.

January 24, 2007

Executive Order
The President signs an Executive Order requiring Federal agencies to establish new goals in the areas of energy efficiency, use of alternative fuels and power generation, environmental management systems, recycling and waste prevention, green purchasing, electronic products stewardship, sustainable design of buildings, and fleet management. In a speech discussing his Administration's energy initiative at the DuPont Theater, the President notes that he had just signed the Executive Order and declared the Federal government will, "increase our purchases of renewable power from new sources. We're going to reduce the gas consumption in the federal fleet by 20 percent over 10 years. We're going to be joining with America."

February 5, 2007

The President's submits his fiscal year 2008 Budget which includes over $2.7 billion for the Advanced Energy Initiative to diversify the U.S. energy portfolio and strengthen energy security. Funding includes $385 million for the Coal Research Initiative, including $108 million for the FutureGen project; $148 million for solar energy development; $179 million for biofuels; $309 million for the Hydrogen Fuels Initiative; $114 million for nuclear power; $395 for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership; and $42 million for advanced battery research. Total climate-related funding for technology, science, incentives and international assistance since 2001, including preliminary 2008 numbers, is approximately $44.6 billion.

February 7, 2007

James L. Connaughton, Chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, and John H. Marburger, III, Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, release an open letter on the President's position on climate change, noting that climate change has been a top priority since the President's first year in office and outlining measures the Administration has taken to address the issue.

March 9, 2007

President Bush meets with President Lula in São Paulo, Brazil, and the two sign the Memorandum of Understanding to Advance Cooperation on Biofuels.

April 27, 2007

President Bush hosts Prime Minister Abe of Japan at Camp David, and the two leaders agree to work closely on the issues of energy security, clean development, and climate change. They issue a joint statement outlining their priorities for cooperative action, including encouraging energy efficiency and diversity of supply, advancements in technology, and stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations at a level that will prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.

April 30, 2007

President Bush meets with fellow European leaders at the 2007 U.S.-EU Summit. The 2007 U.S.-EU Summit Statement reaffirms the parties' shared goals of strengthening energy security and stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations and establishes a work action plan to achieve those goals.

May 14, 2007

Executive Order:
President Bush issues an Executive Order directing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Departments of Energy, Transportation, and Agriculture to take the first steps toward regulations using the "Twenty in Ten" plan as a starting point.

May 31, 2007

President Bush announces U.S. support for an effort to develop a new post-2012 framework on climate change by the end of 2008. The plan notes the necessity of including both major developed and developing economies that generate the majority of greenhouse gas emissions and consume the most energy, and states that climate change must be addressed in a way that enhances energy security and promotes economic growth.

June 6-8, 2007

The President attends the G-8 Summit in Heiligendamm, Germany. The G-8 endorses the President's initiative to convene the major energy consuming and greenhouse gas emitting economies to support the development of a new international framework by the end of 2008 that includes a long-term global goal for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

September 4-9, 2007

The President attends the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Leaders' Meeting in Sydney, Australia. The resulting "Sydney Declaration on Climate Change, Energy Security, and Clean Development" calls for substantial yet realistic goals and practical actions concerning energy intensity, reforestation, and key technological advancement priorities. APEC Leaders welcome the U.S.-led initiative for high-level conversation amongst the major energy consumers and emitters to define a framework for action that could become part of a new global agreement.

September 4, 2007

President Bush and Prime Minister Howard of Australia issue a joint statement reflecting their shared vision on climate change and energy, including their agreement on the benefit of open markets and the need for an integrated approach to climate change, energy security, and clean development.

September 18, 2007

The European Commission becomes a Partner to the Methane to Markets Partnership.

September 22, 2007

Statement by the Press Secretary
The Montreal Protocol Parties agree to the U.S. proposal to accelerate by ten years the remaining phase-out of certain ozone depleting substances. Under this agreement, developed countries will phase out the production of Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) by 2020, and developing nations will phase out the production of HCFCs by 2030. This will reduce the potential emissions of remaining harmful ozone chemicals by about half, and is projected to prevent more greenhouse gases from going into the atmosphere than the Kyoto Protocol, possibly by a factor of 3 or 4.

September 27-28, 2007

Major Economies Meeting on Energy Security and Climate Change

The United States hosts representatives of 17 world leaders plus the United Nations in the first Major Economies Meeting (MEM) on Energy Security and Climate Change. The MEM brings together the world's largest energy consumers and largest producers of greenhouse gas emissions, including both developed and developing nations, to contribute to a global agreement by 2009 under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The President addresses the MEM Parties on the second day of the meeting.

October 15, 2007

The six original members of the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate welcome Canada as the seventh member at their second Ministerial Meeting in New Delhi.

November 16, 2007

President Bush meets with Prime Minister Fukuda of Japan, and the two leaders issue joint statements reaffirming their continued close cooperation to bring major developed and developing economies together around key elements of a future global agreement on climate change and energy security.

November 28, 2007

Statement: Statement by the President on Energy Security and Climate Change
President Bush announces his receipt of the Energy Information Administration's final report, including U.S. greenhouse gas emissions for 2006. Gross energy-related and industrial emissions for 2006 declined 1.5 percent from the 2005 level, while the economy grew 2.9 percent, resulting in a reduction in emissions intensity of 4.2 percent. This is the largest annual improvement since 1985 and puts the U.S. well ahead of the President's 2002 goal to reduce greenhouse gas intensity by 18 percent by 2012.

December 15, 2007

Statement by the Press Secretary
The Press Secretary issues a statement announcing that the U.S. joins consensus on Bali Action Plan, adopted by Parties to of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bali, Indonesia. The Bali Action Plan has many positive features, including provisions recognizing the importance of developing clean technologies, financing the deployment of those technologies in the developing world, assisting countries in adapting to climate change, exploring industry sector agreements on emissions, and addressing deforestation. However, the U.S. is concerned that the Bali Action Plan does not adequately reflect the application of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, which could be interpreted as maintaining a rigid separation between developed and developing countries.

December 19, 2007

President Bush signs HR6, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. The bill sets a mandatory Renewable Fuels Standard requiring fuel producers to use at least 36 billion gallons of alternative fuels by 2022 as well as a mandatory national fuel economy standard of at least 35 miles per gallon by 2020. The legislation's national-level programs address the most significant economic sectors, including mandates on lighting efficiency, appliance efficiency, and Federal government operations, and will avoid approximately 5 billion tons of carbon dioxide emissions from entering the atmosphere between 2008 to 2030.

January 28, 2008

State of the Union Address
In his State of the Union Address, President Bush outlines the next steps for strengthening energy security and addressing climate change. The U.S. must take steps to: 1) fund new technologies that can generate coal power while capturing carbon emissions; 2) increase the use of renewable power and emissions-free nuclear power; 3) continue investing in advanced battery technology and renewable fuels; 4) create a new international clean technology fund; and 5) complete an international agreement that has the potential to slow, stop, and eventually reverse the growth of greenhouse gases.

February 4, 2008

The Presidents Fiscal Year 2009 budget includes, with private match, approximate $1 billion in advanced technologies that can produce power from coal with significantly lower carbon emissions. The budget also includes the first installment of a three-year, $2 billion U.S. commitment to an international clean technology fund that will increase and accelerate the deployment of clean technologies in developing nations to help confront climate change. An additional $242 million for Nuclear Power 2010 to promote licensing of new, zero emissions, and nuclear power plants is also in the FY09 budget.

March 5, 2008

President Bush addresses the Washington International Renewable Energy Conference (WIREC) and discusses the importance of renewable energy technologies to increasing America's energy security and addressing the long-term challenge of climate change.

April 6, 2008

President Bush and President Putin of Russia issue the U.S.-Russia Strategic Framework Declaration mapping out areas of joint cooperation for the U.S. and Russia. The two countries agree to launch a new energy dialogue to collaborate on the development of lower-carbon emission energy sources and energy security. They also agree to work together to address emissions in key sectors and advance negotiations of a post-2012 framework that includes commitments from all major economies consistent with their national circumstances.

April 16, 2008

President Bush delivers remarks in the Rose Garden on climate change and announces a new U.S. goal to stop the growth of greenhouse gas emissions by 2025. The President outlines policy with respect to power generation and energy infrastructure, describing principles as to the right way and wrong way to approach additional regulatory or incentive-based actions. The President also calls on the consolidation of incentives for technologies into a single, expanded program that is carbon-weighted, technology-neutral and long lasting. He further outlines the regulatory and political barriers that many new technologies face. He states, "To pave the way for a new generation of nuclear power plants, we must provide greater certainty on issues from licensing to responsible management of spent fuel. The promise of carbon capture and storage depends on new pipelines and liability rules. Large-scale renewable energy installations are most likely to be built in sparsely populated areas -- which will require advanced, interstate transmission systems to deliver this power to major population centers. If we're serious about confronting climate change, then we have to be serious about addressing these obstacles."

April 22, 2008

President Bush issues a joint statement with President Calderon of Mexico and Prime Minister Harper of Canada. The countries announce their shared agenda of harmonizing energy efficiency standards, enhancing electricity grids, and making more efficient use of energy through increasing vehicle fuel efficiency. The U.S., Mexico, and Canada agree to share technical information and work to remove barriers to the deployment of clean energy technologies. The leaders also agree to establish nationally appropriate programs and goals to be reflected in binding international commitments based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

June 10, 2008

President Bush attends the 2008 U.S.-E.U. Summit in Slovenia and underscores the need for all major economies to develop national climate change plans and goals and to have them reflected in binding international agreements. In the summit declaration, he and his fellow leaders reaffirm their commitment to working in the Major Economies Meetings to support negotiations toward a climate change agreement by the end of 2009 under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

June 18, 2008

At the fourth cabinet level meeting of the Strategic Economic Dialogue, the United States and China sign the Ten Year Framework on Energy and Environment Cooperation Framework structured to foster extensive collaboration over a ten year period to address the challenges of environmental sustainability and energy security.

President Bush delivers remarks in the Rose Garden and calls on Congress to take four steps to remove barriers to increasing domestic production of oil and gasoline: increase access to the Outer Continental Shelf; tap into the potential of oil shale; permit exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; and expand and enhance U.S. refinery capacity.

July 7-8, 2008

President Bush attends the 2008 G-8 Summit in Hokkaido Toyako, Japan. On July 8, he and fellow G-8 leaders release the G-8 Declaration on Environment and Climate Change, in which the leaders agree to consider and adopt a long-term global greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal of 50% by 2050 for all parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

July 9, 2008

President Bush and the leaders of the major economies hold an unprecedented meeting in Hokkaido Toyako, Japan. In the Declaration of Leaders Meeting of Major Economies on Energy Security and Climate Change, the U.S. and fellow major developed economies commit to taking actions to halt emissions growth in the midterm, and the major developing economies commit to take actions in the midterm to deviate from business as usual emissions. The leaders also agree a list of early action items, including cutting emissions in specific economic sectors, eliminating barriers to the trade of energy efficient technologies, accelerating methodologies to support mitigation and adaptation efforts, and supporting actions under the Montreal Protocol with climate co-benefits.

November 22-23, 2008

President Bush attends the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation CEO Summit in Lima, Peru. The APEC leaders endorse the July Major Economies Leaders' Declaration on Energy Security and Climate Change and reaffirm their commitment to reaching an equitable and effective post-2012 international climate change arrangement at the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen.

December 4, 2008

At the fifth cabinet level meeting of the Strategic Economic Dialogue, the United States and China sign the Framework for EcoPartnerships establishing seven new partnerships aimed at developing new models for energy security, economic growth, and environmental sustainability in both countries.

6

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

FROM: Jim Connaughton

SUBJECT: Your Cooperative Conservation Policy

Purpose:

To review accomplishments on issues in public lands, wildlife, and agriculture conservation portfolio.

Summary:

In 2001, the conservation of fish and wildlife habitat and other public land conservation had benefited from several decades of progress. Over those same years, however, chronic problems persisted with endangered species recovery and other long-term issues such as a decline in the health of public forests and catastrophic wildfire. Also, environmental groups and legal clinics had sharpened their attitude and aptitude for challenging decisions and actions by the Federal government, producing a steadily increasing wave of lawsuits and associated delay.

The Administration formed a strategic approach to this set of issues coined as "Cooperative Conservation." An operating construct since the start of the Administration, it was formally adopted as Executive Branch policy in the President's Executive Order 13352 of August 26, 2004. The strategy applied to day-to-day management of natural resources; regional crises such as the shut-off of irrigation water in Klamath Falls, Oregon; chronic ecological problems such as the hotter, more numerous wildfires in the West or the lack of recovery of Pacific Salmon on the Columbia River; and the President's own conservation initiatives such as protecting, enhancing, and restoring 3 million acres of wetlands over 5 years and new initiative on birds and wildlife.

The strategy works because it addresses the root cause of success or failure in American conservation: the ability for Federal agencies to work seamlessly and effectively with each other and with states, tribes, and the public. This has proved the only way to reconcile competing interests for land, wildlife, and water – and failure in this has proved to be the usual reason that competition turns to outright conflict in the courts. The key elements of the strategy include respecting multiple interests, administering laws consistently and in concert, and properly accommodating local participation in Federal decision making.

Cooperative Conservation

Cooperative Conservation EO 13352

Several months after a meeting of conservation leaders with the President at his Ranch in Crawford in April 2004, President Bush signed Executive Order 13352, Facilitation of Cooperative Conservation. In that EO, he directed the DOI, USDA, DOC, DOD, and EPA to implement laws relating to the environment and natural resources in a manner that promotes Cooperative Conservation, with an emphasis on appropriate inclusion of local participation in Federal decision-making, in accordance with their respective agency missions, policies, and regulations. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) was directed to coordinate, and to provide an annual report on Cooperative Conservation efforts. By 2008, the Government Accountability Office issued a report titled, "Natural Resource Management Opportunities Exist to Enhance Federal Participation in Collaborative Efforts to Reduce Conflicts and Improve Natural Resource Conditions, "(GAO-08-262, http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08262.pdf). Recommendations include even stronger implementation of Cooperative Conservation activities including formalizing partnerships through a written plan, MOU, or other appropriate means.

In August, 2005, the Administration hosted the White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation in St. Louis, MO. This gathering included representatives from the public and private sectors to discuss the advancement of the Cooperative Conservation vision. The purpose of the conference was to *Strengthen Shared Government and Citizen Stewardship*. As a follow up to the Conference, the Administration held 25 listening sessions across the country (http://cooperativeconservation.gov/sessions/index.html). Based on the results from these meetings, the Administration formed several Working Groups to address various issues, such as the Legal Authorities Working Group, which enumerated the existing laws under which more Cooperative Conservation is possible (http://cooperativeconservation.gov/library/index.html#legal). In July 2008, Executive Committee members jointly drafted an MOU that formalized the partnership among Cabinet departments (addressing one of the recommendations in the GAO report). In August 2008, the Executive Committee drafted an outline for the 2008 Annual Report and Action Plan. These documents will serve as transitional materials to document previous activities and provide focus for the future.

Fire and Forest Health

At the beginning of the Administration, wildfires mainly in the West had burned 6 million acres – higher than the 10-year average of total acres and more numerous in the number of individual large fires. This problem was commonly understood by a rare consensus of forest experts and interest groups as resulting from years of overdone suppression of fire in National Forests. Decades of direct effort to extinguish every fire that starts on public lands have disrupted the pattern of periodic natural fires that can safely reduce and thin fallen wood, brush, and dense forests. Also, communities have developed and grown adjacent to fire-prone lands in what is known as the ***wildland/urban interface***. Therefore, wildland fires pose increasing threats to people and their property.

Over the same period of time that approving projects for forest management was made more complex, time-consuming, and fraught with delay and controversy; therefore, the projects necessary to solve the problem were unlikely to be approved in time for expeditious help for crowded forests.

The Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the Western Governors Association had begun responding to this problem in August, 2000. These parties had developed a National Fire Plan after the landmark wildland fire season that year.

Building on that first response and in response to Congressional inaction to fashion a legislative solution to the problem, the President began the Healthy Forests Initiative (HFI) in August 2002. HFI set out a series of administrative steps that could be taken under existing authorities to reduce the risks severe wildfires pose to people, communities, and the environment. By protecting forests, woodlands, shrublands, and grasslands from unnaturally intensive and destructive fires, HFI helps improve the condition of our public lands, increases firefighter safety, and conserves landscape attributes valued by society.

The common sense of the President's initiative, combined with a continuation of devastating fire finally spurred Congress to act. In December, 2003, the President signed the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003, which enjoyed broad bipartisan support from the furthest reaches of the political spectrum. HFRA, as it is known, contains a variety of provisions to speed through the paperwork required to approve projects that reduce and remove hazardous fuels and that restore burned forests on the Federal lands most at risk for catastrophic fire. The HFRA also helps States, Tribes, rural communities and landowners restore healthy forest and rangeland conditions on State, Tribal, and private lands.

Since 2002, we have thinned and removed underbrush and performed other landscape restoration activities across more than 27 million acres – protecting animal habitats and hunting grounds. The Forest Service and Department of Interior report on this progress annually (http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/reports/documents/healthyforests).

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

This law requires an analysis of effects on the environment for every major Federal action. These analyses must conform to exacting procedural steps by which agencies disclose all relevant aspects of their decisions. As relevance is debatable, and as shrewd attorneys use the procedural steps to delay or derail decisions they oppose for other reasons, the process for writing these papers and seeking comments from the public has devolved into long schedules followed by routine appeals, protests, lawsuits, and court orders to start over.

Early in the Administration, the Council in Environmental Quality launched a NEPA Task Force, comprised of the most experienced career federal officials, to fashion recommendations for modernizing the NEPA process to make it more effective and more cooperative. After an extensive series of public consultations and internal deliberations, the Task Force provided to the CEQ Chairman a report outlining 54 recommendations for improving the process. These recommendations were further vetted in a series of public meetings held across the country, resulting in a broad public and local government consensus endorsing all of the recommendations. The agencies have been quietly diligently implementing these recommendations over the last six years.

Early in the process and before the other recommendations were complete, CEQ and the Task Force recognized a growing need for a more cooperative approach to implementing this far-reaching. So in January, 2002, CEQ issued guidance on a NEPA provision that requires the lead agency on a major federal project to both offer and then provide "cooperating agency" status to other federal, state and local agencies with expertise or authority in the matter under decision so that they can participate in the development and analysis of options being considered.

This innovation is still catching on with Federal agencies and state and local governments. But where it has been used, it has helped settle disputed questions earlier in the decision process and produced more "buy-in" of federal decisions, making them more durable against legal challenges. Our latest report on this new approach shows cooperating agencies were involved in approximately 40 percent of the most detailed decisions which involve an extensive Environmental Impact Statement. Reporting shows 8 percent involvement in simpler decisions, which involve an Environmental Assessment. However, agencies report that these numbers underestimate the extent of cooperation because most cooperation occurs informally. This is generating greater goodwill, efficiency and utility in the management of this process.

National Forests

Most Federal forest land is managed by the USDA Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management in the Department of Interior for producing wood, wildlife habitat, and recreation. The President's biggest objectives in forest management have been to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire (see Fire and Forest Health above) and to reestablish regular forest management projects that accomplish the purposes for which the land is being managed. Such projects have been delayed, disrupted, and discouraged over the last 30 years by lawsuits over the paperwork required for approving the projects (see NEPA, above) as well as on substantive grounds under other statutes such as the Endangered Species Act. The suits challenge technicalities in paperwork because the plaintiffs disagree with the larger policy of producing timber on public lands as required by the Forest Land Planning and Management Act and other laws. Therefore, the Administration has changed several policies on the approval process to separate legitimate challenges from ulterior motives and so policy disagreements can be raised and debated out in the open.

The Forest Service has improved the process for planning forest management. The Forest Service amended its regulations in April, 2008, and clarified that the Forest Service need not write an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Environmental Assessment (EA) for each plan it produces. Opponents of the planning rule, true to their strategy, have challenged the rule in court on the grounds that the Forest Service failed to properly comply with the National Environmental Policy Act in producing the rule.

NW Forest Plan

The Administration's biggest single focus in forest management has been the Northwest Forest Plan. The Clinton Administration adopted this plan in 1994, intending to end court injunctions that brought timber production in the Pacific Northwest to a standstill. Their strategy was to protect habitat for old-growth forest species and produce a predictable timber supply for economic stability—about one billion board feet of timber per year when fully implemented. The Plan has attempted to protect old-growth trees by drawing fixed protective zones around certain areas. This approach failed to anticipate the biggest risks to the primary old-growth forest species – the spotted owl – which is losing habitat to the very similar barred owl that is invading the region by reproducing faster than the spotted owl. Accordingly, the NW Forest Plan has persistently failed to deliver on its promise of a sustainable forest economy. Litigation and procedural delays continued to prevent implementation of the Plan in the balanced manner that was intended. In addition, the complexity of the Plan has created administrative gridlock due to expensive and burdensome processes and analysis requirements that go beyond legal requirements.

The Administration introduced a more strategic approach to the NW Forest Plan. Starting with a revised sub-plan for Bureau of Land Management forests inside the NW Forest Plan area, we are shifting the protected zones for spotted owls as the forests grow, burn, restart from seedlings, and produce timber. This way, the best habitat conditions – which are always changing across the landscape – are always protected. By FY 2006, the President was finally able to propose a budget that would fund the analyses and tree-marking field work at the level necessary to offer 1 billion board-feet for sale. Congress finally enacted a budget for 1 billion board-feet for FY2008.

Roadless Rule

Roadless areas are those places in National Forests where no roads – or practically no roads – exist and yet remain open to all forms of use allowed on National Forests. Wilderness advocates have for decades argued that these areas should be declared official Wilderness under the Wilderness Act so that only non-motorized, limited uses will be legal. The Clinton Administration issued a rule in its final year effectively granting the wilderness designation, but this rule has been overturned by some District Courts and upheld by others. This Administration, after several years of attempting to replace the Clinton Rule, has approved several state-specific roadless area solutions as recommended by the governors of the states where the areas are found. The Forest Service has codified these solutions under the general authority of all agencies to consider petitions for rule making from non-Federal parties. Roadless rule solutions are now in place in Idaho and Pennsylvania. A solution is nearly complete in Colorado.

National Parks

The National Park System understandably carries a steady load of maintenance and repair tasks for its roads and buildings. It is also a popular beneficiary of Members of Congress who add new buildings, especially visitor centers, in their home districts that consume funds and compete with maintenance and repairs. Thus, complaints about potholes in roads and buildings in disrepair are commonplace. In fulfillment of President Bush's 2000 campaign commitment, the Administration significantly increased the Park Service budget and implemented management reforms to more effectively address this maintenance backlog.

Having made substantial progress in addressing the maintenance backlog, the Administration then turned its attention to the need for enhancing the conservation values of the parks. Taking advantage of the approaching centennial anniversary of the National Parks in 2016, President Bush launched an initiative to increase funding for the parks by the greatest amount in history through both public funds and by leveraging private investment. The President announced this $3 billion initiative in the Shenandoah National Park in February 2007. Since then, the Administration bill has been introduced in Congress, where a debate is underway on the part of the package that includes mandatory spending.

Several times during this Administration, members of Congress asked the Secretary of Interior to update Park regulations to match evolving state law on concealed firearms. For decades, Park rules required all visitors to Parks to put all firearms out of ready use while in the Park. This differed from the rules on National Forests, Wildlife Refuges, and Bureau of Land Management lands, where the prevailing state law on possession of firearms applied. In 2008, the Park Service amended its regulations to defer to state concealed-carry laws. Rifles and shotguns must still be kept out of ready use in Parks – unlike other Federal lands, hunting is not permitted in most Parks and therefore there is no compelling reason to allow possession of usable long guns.

The Administration also is addressing another inconsistency in Park regulations with respect to mountain biking. Although a Park Supervisor may decide through a local decision-making process the best routes for horseback riding, he or she must elevate the same decision for mountain biking routes to a nation-wide rulemaking process. A fix for this inconsistency has been proposed for public comment and should be adopted shortly.

Agriculture and Private Lands

The Administration signaled the strength of its commitment to conservation on private lands when it successfully more than doubled conservation program funding from $17 billion dollars to more than $40 billion dollars in the 2002 Farm Bill (an amount trimmed back a bit in the 2008 bill).

The heart of this effort is the Conservation Reserve Program – the largest public-private conservation partnership in the Nation, involving approximately 800,000 farmers. In return for an annual payment under these contracts, farmers retire some of their land from tilling and instead plant and maintain grasses or trees. Landowners can choose from a list of "practices" that specify what conservation the landowner must produce: for example, native grasses, wetlands restoration, or trees. Hunters and other conservationists consistently advocate for additional enrollment in this program, which currently covers more than 34 million acres. Rising prices for farm commodities are enticing more landowners to let their contracts expire after the 10- or 15-year term and return to tilling. Also, Congress has lowered the cap on the program to 32 million acres.

Through his Administration, the President looked for ways to leverage these incentive payments to emphasize certain beneficial conservation practices and increase the chances that landowners will renew their contracts. For example, in 2004, the President announced Early Re-Enrollment and Extensions of CRP Contracts. With this announcement he introduced a practice to promote bobwhite quail habitat. In 2008, at the White House Conference on Wildlife Policy, Vice President Cheney announced CRP incentives for wetlands restoration and bottomland hardwood forests, and another incentive for CRP landowners who allow public hunting on the good habitat they are producing under their CRP contract.

In addition to the Farm Bill conservation programs, the President has substantially increased private lands conservation by reforming, extending and expanding the availability of tax incentives to landowners who donate conservation easements. These real-estate transactions convey specific development rights on a tract to a charitable organization. The value of the donation is tax deductible, but the limits on the size of the deduction relative to the landowner's income prevent lower-income landowners from benefitting from the incentive. The President twice proposed extending a higher deduction from its 2-year effective term to a permanent change in the tax code. Most recently, the Farm Bill of 2008, which passed over the President's veto (for other reasons), once again enacted the higher deductions for a 2-year period. At the White House Conference on Wildlife Policy, Vice President Cheney called on Congress to make the incentive permanent.

Tropical Forests and Illegal Logging

The President's land conservation efforts also extend overseas. He has budgeted for and concluded numerous new agreements under the Tropical Forest Conservation Act to conserve important habitat in return for debt relief. On February 14, 2002, he directed the Secretary of State to develop an Initiative to Stop Illegal Logging, which he subsequently announced in July. Since then, the State Department has negotiated agreements with Indonesia and is working on an agreement with China on cooperative means of reducing illegal logging. The Administration also worked with Congress to amend U.S. law so that Federal penalties would apply to importers of illegally-harvested wood and wood products. This language amending the Lacey Act passed in the Farm Bill of 2008.

Softwood Lumber

A trade dispute with Canada over imports of softwood lumber ended in 2006 with an agreement brokered by the U.S. Trade Representative. Though the agreement largely addressed trade, a provision in the agreement required distribution of $450 million toward "meritorious initiatives" to support educational and charitable causes in timber-reliant communities, assistance for low-income housing and disaster relief, and public-interest projects concerning forest management. The Administration distributed the $450 million to the newly-created U.S. Endowment for People and Forests ($200 million), the American Forest Foundation ($150 million), and Habitat for Humanity ($100 million). The U.S. Endowment is now up and running and making its first grants. The American Forest Foundation is reorganizing and hiring new leadership. Habitat for Humanity is distributing its funds through its regular program.

Wetlands

On President Bush's watch, the nation finally halted the loss of its wetlands and is on a strong path to a reliable overall net gain in both the quantity and quality of wetlands. The President's wetlands policy has consisted of two major parts: 1) a set of active-management programs that restore, improve, and protect more than 800,000 acres of wetlands per year, and 2) Clean Water Act regulations that require developers to offset the loss to development of 20,000 to 25,000 acres of existing wetlands per year.

The first category of activities includes dozens of programs and billions of dollars of incentives in the Farm Bill, North American Wetlands Conservation Act, and other programs. These provided the policy and budget foundation for the President's 2004 Earth Day goal of achieving an overall increase in the quality and quantity of our wetlands by restoring, improving, and protecting 3 million acres of wetlands over five years. On Earth Day, 2008, CEQ announced the Administration exceeded the President's goal by 600,000 acres, and did so one year ahead of schedule. In September, 2008, President Bush announced a new wetlands goal to conserve another 4 million acres in the coming 5 years. The goal also emphasizes his policy of improving the quality of wetlands by organizing several wetlands reports and directing wetland conservation at important regions of the country where so we can measure progress: the Gulf Coast storm surges, Gulf of Mexico "dead zone", Mississippi Valley agricultural runoff, and Great Lakes water quality.

The second category – the regulatory program – applies to construction, property development, mining, and agricultural projects that require draining or filling wetlands to stabilize soil for building, paving, or landscaping. The Clean Water Act requires a Federal permit for such draining or filling and duty to replace the affected wetlands if the action may have an impact on "navigable" waters - essentially any water you can float a boat on. Federal jurisdiction to issue these permits is relatively straightforward if the wetlands are "adjacent" (i.e. alongside) such navigable waters, on the theory that the wetlands can directly affect the quality of the navigable water. However, the most recent Supreme Court decision, *Rapanos v. United States*, considered wetlands that are far away from "navigable" waters - such as a swamp at the top of a small stream that runs for miles and feeds into another long tributary before reaching a "navigable" river or lake, and because of this separation may or may not be protected by the Clean Water Act.

In June, 2006, the Court ruled that the United States must provide a better justification for asserting Federal regulatory authority over such remote wetlands and streams, which may be too far away to affect a navigable water. One year later, in June, 2007, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers issued a new guidance document describing how agency personnel should implement the Supreme Court decision. The guidance provided a new, and more exacting, rationale for determining the scope of the Federal government's jurisdiction to regulate wetlands under the Clean Water Act.

The lower 48 states hold more than 100 million acres of wetlands. Only a very small amount, about 80 to 90 thousand acres, may be affected by development and regulation each year, with an average project involving about 300 acres. Only a fraction of this amount is disputed. And only a fraction of this fraction is affected by the Supreme Court decision and the new guidance. Because the regulatory agencies currently require replacement of every acre lost to development with about 1.8 acres of "mitigation" wetlands, the program should continue to achieve "no net loss" of wetlands, even to the extent some acres are now beyond regulatory reach. Therefore, the Supreme Court decision and the new guidance should not significantly affect the President's broader objective.

Regional Initiatives

Salmon Recovery

The hydropower system on the Columbia River is run by the Corps of Engineers and the power is marketed by the Congressionally-chartered Bonneville Power Administration. This federal involvement means that the operation of dams requires a form of permit called a Biological Opinion under the Endangered Species Act. The hydro-system generates about 40 percent of the electricity consumed in the Pacific Northwest from 31 Federal dams and 1 nuclear plant and delivered to over 140 utilities in the region.

Environmentalists seeking to have the dams removed from the river have kept the Biological Opinion in legal limbo for decades. Under the simplistic argument that "fish need water", these groups have attacked the complex and debatable science of river flows, fish passage through the ladders and turbines of the dams, and dissolved oxygen and nitrogen from air that mixes with the water in the splash beneath the dams.

The President spoke to the importance of the dams in August, 2003, and since then the Federal agencies have negotiated a new Biological Opinion that appears to have the staying power to survive further litigation. The three Federal action agencies (Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, and the Bureau of Reclamation) have entered into agreements with four tribes to provide 10-year mutual commitments for fish restoration and habitat improvement, particularly for Columbia River Basin salmon and steelhead. Under these agreements, the agencies would make available approximately $900 million over ten years, to continue existing programs and to implement new priority fish projects with the tribes. Most of the funding will come from BPA. Under the agreements, the tribes agree to stay out of future litigation.

Klamath

Among the earliest and most urgent issues confronting the President, irrigation water from the Federal Klamath Project was shut off during a legal dispute about fish in the Klamath River and Upper Klamath Lake. Ironically, the shut off dried up two Federal wildlife refuges along with the farming community of Klamath Falls, OR – population 1,200. The President established a working group of Cabinet members and the CEQ Chairman to fix both the immediate issue of providing irrigation water and the long-term problem of integrating management of irrigation, hydropower generation, fish conservation, and other values. Through the concerted effort of the Klamath Working Group, the Administration and its partners have significantly improved the habitat for threatened and endangered fish in the lake and rivers, and have brought landowners and other interests together to negotiate a long-term solution.

Results of the conservation efforts include:

- contracts with 360 landowners to improve farming and ranching practices
- a water bank for Klamath Project irrigators, which has reduced irrigation diversions between 20,000 and 100,000 acre-feet each year from 2002
- reduced irrigation diversions in the upper basin by more than 60,000 acre-feet
- protective fish screens at the mouth of irrigation ditches, including the "A Canal" – the main irrigation canal at the Federal irrigation project
- new fish passage on tributary streams including the Link River Dam and the Scott and Shasta Rivers.
- decreased withdrawals of water from the Trinity River, nearly doubling the flows remaining in the river.
- restoration of the 6,000-acre Williamson River delta where reconnecting wetlands to Upper Klamath Lake has improved fish habitat

On the strength of conservation improvements on the ground, a diverse gathering of Federal, state, tribal, and private interests on the Klamath River have proposed a long-term legal agreement. The private energy company that owns four dams on the main river, which block passage for salmon to the upper river, has agreed to raise private funds (to be matched by state funds from California) to transfer ownership and dismantle the hydropower dams on the river. Secretary Kempthorne has signed understandings with California, Oregon, tribal, and non-governmental interests to begin a multi-year process of research and planning to implement the proposed long-term solution. The many parties who were in conflict in 2001, are now bound together in carrying out a unified strategy and will be able to resist attempts through new litigation to shut off the irrigation water.

Everglades Restoration

The focus of the Administration's efforts in the Everglades is to (1) reduce phosphate pollution and meet Federal water quality standards ("cleanup"), and (2) restore natural water flows important for ecosystem health and fish and wildlife preservation ("restoration").

With respect to cleanup, the Administration approved a State regulation limiting discharges of phosphorus into the area, and the State is moving forward with implementation. In fact, despite hurricane-related impacts and additional runoff, total phosphorus concentrations in the stormwater treatment areas were reduced by 71% for water year 2005.

With respect to restoration, in fiscal year 2006, Congress funded the President's budget request for the Federal/State CERP (Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan) and also provided the approximately $60 million in funding necessary for the Modified Water Deliveries Project intended to restore natural flows. The 2007 budget request continued the President's commitment to restoration of the Everglades, by requesting $67 million for CERP, and another $60 million for the Modified Water Deliveries Project. The President's 2009 budget included $25.2 million for the construction of Picayune Strand Project and $4.5 million for Indian River

Lagoon-South Project which were the first of the potential 63 CERP projects to be authorized and another $60 million for the Modified Water Deliveries Project.

The Administration also worked closely with the State of Florida to implement their "Acceler8" initiative launched in October of 2004. "Acceler8" will expedite the implementation of at least (now potentially 14) specific components of the CERP to helping to increase water flows, restore Everglades habitat, and provide significant benefits for fish and wildlife. The success of this State initiative depends strongly on full funding and implementation of the Federal programs, specifically the Modified Water Deliveries Project.

In June of 2008, the State of Florida announced its intention to purchase the U.S. Sugar Corporation's holdings south of Lake Okeechobee. The purchase of this 181,000 acres would have the potential to provide a missing link in moving water from Lake Okeechobee to the Everglades. In addition, this effort would advance the state's compliance with Federal water quality standards as required by a Federal consent decree.

Great Lakes EO 13340

Through a Great Lakes Charter Annex of 2001, the governors of the eight Great Lakes states developed nine priorities to protect and restore the Great Lakes. Coordination and cooperation among the states resulted in completing one of these priorities, the Great Lakes Compact, ratified by all eight governors in December of 2005.

In May of 2004, President Bush issued an Executive Order "to help establish a regional collaboration of national significance for the Great Lakes." The Executive Order established a Great Lakes Interagency Task Force to guide the planning for a regional collaboration. The purpose of the collaboration is to develop, by consensus, a national restoration and protection action plan for the Great Lakes. A framework document was prepared by the Task Force and resulted in the convening of a Great Lakes Regional Collaboration in December 2004.

Per Executive Order 13340 "Establishment of Great Lakes Interagency Task Force and Promotion of a Regional Collaboration of National Significance for the Great Lakes", the Administration has maintained the forward progress behind the compact. CEQ established a Management Fund Project that assesses Great Lakes Interagency Task Force member agencies to support administration of Task Force. The Task Force issued a "Strategy to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes" in December of 2005. The Strategy calls for enacting the compact and addressing the other eight priorities recognized by the governors in 2001. These priorities include:

- aquatic invasive species
- habitat conservation and species management
- near shore waters and coastal areas
- areas of concern [31 contaminated areas in the Great Lakes region]
- non-point sources of pollution
- toxic pollutants
- sound information base and representative indicators

- sustainability

Wildlife Conservation

By 2001, wildlife conservation in America had accomplished a 100-year-long shift from a time of relatively scarce wildlife and plentiful hunters to the opposite situation of many fewer hunters and dramatically recovered wildlife populations. Ironically, the situation in 2001 also involved difficulty for hunters to find places to hunt, unfunded mandates on state wildlife agencies, and many disputes over endangered species. This situation arose from the following circumstances:

- beginning in 1937, a Federal excise tax on hunting arms and ammunition, self-imposed by hunters who advocated for the tax, funded state wildlife managers in restoring and studying many species of game wildlife such as deer, elk, wild turkeys, bear, and wood ducks.
- Federal agencies gained specific authorities to manage migratory birds, wildlife habitat on Federal lands, and threatened and endangered species.
- land ownership in America became more fragmented as families subdivided land to pay inheritance tax and businesses, towns, and cities grew and developed land.
- procedural, regulatory policies such as the Endangered Species Act enabled private citizens to force attention to any non-game wildlife species, most of which have never been studied because of the state-level focus on game species and the limited Federal role focused on habitat and migratory birds.

The Administration's approach to this situation involved specific improvements to migratory bird conservation, habitat management (see Forest and Forest Health, Wetlands, and Agriculture and Private Land, above), and Endangered Species Act policy.

<u>Bird Conservation</u>

In the winter of 2006, the President acted on six recommendations to bird conservation in a white paper entitled "Restoring North America's Migratory Birds: *Saving Birds and Habitat through Cooperative Conservation.*" The paper was a group effort including experts from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (i.e., the study of birds). Of the six approaches described in the 40-page paper, all but one had already been identified internally as important priorities for Administration action. On October 20, 2007, at the Patuxent National Wildlife Refuge, the President announced his intent to accomplish all six recommendations, which include:

- Expand support for National Wildlife Refuges by improving habitat.
- Sustaining and promoting "Joint Ventures" (these are habitat projects) by funding existing JVs and New JVs: support at least 3 new Joint Venture partnerships by 2009, to help conserve birds along the Rio Grande corridor, Appalachian Mountains, and the Northern Great Plains.
- Improve Incentives for Private Landowners: institute the Recovery Credit Trading Policy, which specifies how land owners can earn money for producing habitat for endangered species habitat. The approach was developed and first used at Fort Hood in Texas to promote habitat for two species of migratory birds.
- Consolidate and improve "State of the Birds" implementation, monitoring, and reporting by directing Interior to produce a "State of the Birds" report by 2009, to chart progress toward improving status of 5 species over the next 5 years.

- Conserving Coastal and Marine Migratory Birds by joining the Agreement on Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP).
- Boost habitat conservation in Mexico by funding projects in five priority habitat areas identified by the Tri-national Committee of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative.

All six are now complete or nearing completion.

Endangered Species policy

In 2001, Endangered Species Act policy was dominated by efforts to complete procedural requirements and resolve ensuing legal challenges. The most prominent of these was the requirement, known as "consultation" that all Federal funding, authorizations, and proposed actions must be studied and, if necessary, modified to ensure they do not jeopardize any threatened or endangered species or adversely modify designated habitats for those species. The Act also requires a specific process for considering and adding new species to the lists of threatened and endangered species. At the same time, little or no attention was paid to provisions of the Act that might more productively enable its implementation, such as the requirement that recovery programs should restore listed species to the point where they no longer require the protections of the Act.

The Administration attempted to address the well-entrenched cycle of process and litigation. Interior has issued a new regulation on consultation that clarifies the conditions under which a Federal action agency can fulfill the Act's requirement for study without involving the Fish and Wildlife Service or NOAA Fisheries Service. On listing and habitat designation, the Administration completed the paperwork to remove several recovered species from the lists: bald eagle, grizzly bear in Yellowstone Park, gray wolf, and peregrine falcon. These few high-profile success stories, however, were largely outnumbered by new listings often forced by courts that impose a precautionary rationale assuming that listing is the best option in the absence of specific information about a species.

The Administration issued a guidance document that should improve the little-used active recovery function of the Endangered Species Act. The guidance advances Recovery Credit Systems, which were used for example at Fort Hood, Texas, to enable a Federal land manager such as the Army to measure necessary damage to wildlife habitat in denominations of credits indicating habitat value. The Army can then sign contracts with or buy conservation easements from neighboring landowners to improve habitat and then measure the habitat improvements on the same scale of credits. This approach limits the need for consultations about whether training exercises that damage habitat, and also creates an incentive for landowners to promote recovery.

Hunting and Habitat Conservation

In August 2007, the President issued an Executive Order on "Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation." The Hunting EO requires agencies to increase hunting opportunities and to expand conservation of game species and their habitat. The EO called for the CEQ Chairman to convene a North American Wildlife Policy Conference and to develop a 10-year Recreational Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Plan to be released later this year. The

Conference was held October 1-3, 2008 in Reno, Nevada, and the Vice President attended on the President's behalf. The Vice President announced several new policies, which will appear in the a new 10-year Plan published by CEQ on January 16, 2009.

COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION (2000-2008)

Cooperative Conservation--General

April 8, 2004

President Bush hosts leaders of major conservation organizations at his ranch in Crawford, Texas.

August 26, 2004

The President issues an Executive Order directing Federal agencies that oversee environmental and natural resource policies and programs to promote cooperative conservation in full partnership with states, local governments, tribes, and individual.

2005

The Congress begins funding the Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (DOD), as authorized in 2003.

May 26, 2005

The CEQ Chairman issues a report on the progress made to involve tribal, state, and local government, as well as other Federal agencies, as formal "cooperating agencies" in Federal NEPA processes relevant to them.

August 29-31, 2005

The White House hosts the conference on Cooperative Conservation, St. Louis, Missouri.

November 28, 2005

CEQ and the Office of Personnel Management issue the "Memorandum on Implementing Executive Order 13352 through a Competency-Based Approach to Collaboration and Partnering" to ensure that the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Defense and the Environmental Protection Agency take into account, to the fullest extent possible, the principles of Cooperative Conservation in the hiring, training, and rewarding of Federal employees consistent with agency mission requirements and individual employee duties.

The CEQ Chairman and OMB Director issue a Memorandum on Environmental Conflict Resolution setting forth basic principles for engaging Federal agencies in environmental conflict resolution and collaborative problem-solving. It further directs agencies to increase the effective use of environmental conflict resolution and build institutional capacity for collaborative problems solving.

ugust 9 – October 9, 2006

The Department of the Interior hosts twenty five listening sessions across the country to discuss potential Cooperative Conservation partnerships, opportunities and ideas that are currently posted on cooperativeconservation.gov.

June 6, 2007

The Administration announces the EPA Good Samaritan Initiative to encourage voluntary cleanups by parties that do not own and are not responsible for a contaminated property's environmental conditions.

June 29, 2007

The EPA gives an award to Trout Unlimited for the Good Samaritan clean-up of American Fork Mine site.

The Good Samaritan Initiative has remained an administrative action to eliminate deterrents to mine clean-up under CERCLA and the Clean Water Act. Congressmen Udall and Salazar introduced HR 4011 but it has never made it to the floor potentially because it was attached as an amendment to the Clean Water Act.

eptember 8, 2006

The Department of the Interior hosts the National Conference on Children and Nature at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

April 7, 2007

The Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (NRCS) is established as a volunteer program to foster financial and technical partnerships that focus on watersheds and airsheds of special significance. http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ccpi/

Fire and Forest Health

June 4, 2001

The President signs HR 581 – Wildfire Management reimbursement authority.

August 22, 2002

The President tours the area damaged by the Squires Fire in Central Oregon and delivers remarks announcing the Health Forests Initiative.

May 20, 2003

President Bush delivers remarks in the East Garden urging Congress to act on the Healthy Forests Initiative.

August 11, 2003

The President tours Inspiration Rock in the Coronado National Forest near Tucson, Arizona, and promotes Healthy Forests.

October 3, 2006

The President delivers short remarks on the Day Fire in California.

December 3, 2003

The President signs the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003.

June 2008

The U.S. Forest Service releases an annual report on forest and rangeland progress.

July 17, 2008

President Bush participates in a tour of California wildfires and delivers remarks in Redding, California.

National Environmental Policy Act

January 30, 2002

The CEQ issues the NEPA Cooperating Agency Guidance requiring Federal agencies to invite and include any qualified state, local, or tribal governments to fully participate in the environmental review process for Federal activities in which they have an interest.

December 23, 2004

The CEQ issues a memorandum revising the reporting requirements established in the 2002 Memo.

May 26, 2005

The CEQ issues a report on agency cooperating agency activities.

National Forests

August 24, 2002

The President affirms the Northwest Forest Plan in the weekly radio address, saying, "My administration will work with Congress to deliver on the unfulfilled promises of the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan. The plan was crafted to protect wildlife habitat and recreational areas, while employing more than 100,000 people through sustainable timber harvesting in a small portion of the forests." In 1994, the NW Forest Plan became the cornerstone for conserving the northern spotted owl on 24.4 million acres of federal land in OR, WA, and CA. In 2003 a NW Forest Plan MOU was signed by the Federal agencies. On October 5, 2002, federal agencies signed an MOU to organize implementation of the Plan.

September 27, 2005

The Forest Service Partnership Enhancement Act (HR 3818 and S. 2676) is voted favorably out of committee.

January, 2007

The 2007 budget provides full funding for the Northwest Forest Plan.

April 21, 2008

The USDA issues a Final Rule and Record of Decision on National Forest System land management.

July 24, 2008

A Final Rule is published on Forest Service NEPA procedures.

National Parks

May 30, 2001

President Bush delivers remarks at Sequoia National Park and announces the National Parks Legacy Project.

June 4, 2001

The President issues a statement on the Everglades and signs a joint agreement with Florida Governor Jeb Bush tiered to the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 at Everglades National Park.

April 23, 2002

President Bush issues a Proclamation in honor of National Park week,

April 23, 2004

The President discusses Earth Day and National Volunteer Day in remarks at the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Naples, Florida.

February 7, 2007

The President and Mrs. Bush visit Shenandoah National Park and participate in a roundtable on the National Parks Centennial Initiative.

February 28, 2007

The First Lady celebrates Preserve America in California.

July, 2007

Bills are introduced in the House and Senate to authorize the Centennial Fund and Centennial Challenge Fund accounts, respectively.

February 8, 2008

The First Lady visits Everglades National Park, where she also visit a Junior Ranger Event.

April 10, 2008

The First Lady visits Texas to celebrate Preserve America.

April 28, 2008

The First Lady visits the Castle Clinton National Monument in New York City during her visit to the First Bloom Event.

November 2, 2008

The First Lady delivers remarks at the First Bloom Event at the Trinity Audubon Center in Dallas, Texas.

Agriculture – Farm and Private Lands

August 13, 2001

The President signs a supplemental Agricultural Bill.

January 23, 2002

President Bush improves incentives to Farmers for conservative management efforts.

April 11, 2002

President Bush calls on the Senate to pass the CARE Act for America's Charities.

May 13, 2002

President Bush signs a Farm Bill that increases acreage and funding to the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) and created the Conservation Security Program (CSP) and Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP).

August 4, 2004

President Bush delivers remarks at the Katzenmeyer Family Farm in Le Sueur, Minnesota, and announces new efforts to strengthen conservation under the Conservation Reserve Program, offering early re-enrollment and extensions of CRP contracts, opening the general sign-up to help America's farmers, and starting the Bobwhite Quail Habitat Initiative.

2007

The FY2007 Budget targets the CRP.

May 22, 2008

The Farm Bill becomes law and includes a two-year extension of the special rule encouraging contributions of capital gain real property for conservation purposes.

Illegal Logging

February 14, 2002

The President directs the Secretary of State to develop an international initiative to address illegal logging.

July 28, 2003

The President announces the Initiative to Stop Illegal Logging.

2004

The United States launches the Liberia Forest Initiative to work with the European Union and other partners to help Liberia conserve and recover its rich and war-torn forests. If sustainably managed, the country's forests could generate substantial foreign exchange earnings, employ thousands of workers, and contribute to biodiversity conservation and community forestry.

May 22, 2008

The Lacey Act is amended as part of the Farm Bill (Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008). MOU's with China and Indonesia were concluded in 2007 and 2006 respectively. These MOU's address among other things, improved cooperation on combating illegal logging and associated trade, the promotion of transparent timber markets and information sharing between governments, and the development of public-private partnerships that are supportive of these efforts.

2007

The United States co-sponsors, with Australia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand, a resolution in the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on "International cooperation in preventing and combating illicit international trafficking in forest products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources" – a significant step in engaging the professional law enforcement community to address forest and wildlife crimes.

2007

The United States and The Nature Conservancy launch the Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade (RAFT) program. The RAFT is a regional public-private partnership to promote responsible timber trade in Asia. It brings together a catalytic group of NGOs, governments and private sector partners such as Home Depot and Xerox to transform the tropical timber trade. It will work in timber producing and timber importing countries to improve forest management practices, promote timber trade from legal sources, and strengthen regional cooperation on forest management and trade.

June 2007

The Peru Trade Promotion Agreement (PTPA) is signed and includes new and innovative provisions on combating illegal logging. The PTPA Environment Chapter provides for concrete steps that the parties will take to enhance forest sector governance in Peru and promote legal trade in timber products. The United States and Peru also conclude a comprehensive Environmental Cooperation Agreement to enhance bilateral cooperation to address forest governance and other environmental concerns.

Softwood Lumber

eptember 11, 2006

The US and Canada end all litigation over trade in softwood lumber, unrestricting trade in favorable market conditions.

April, 2007

The U.S. distributes $500 million of duty deposits to a new foundation, the U.S. Endowment for Communities and Forests and two existing foundations: the American Forest Foundation and Habitat for Humanity. $50 million of the total went to the Bi-national Industry Council. These distributions fulfilled the terms of the settlement agreement between the U.S. and Canada.

Wetlands Initiative

January 15, 2003

The EPA and the Corps of Engineers issue guidance under the Clean Water Act to implement the Supreme Court decision in *Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County* (SWANCC).

April 22, 2004

President Bush announces the Wetlands Initiatives proclaiming that a loss of wetlands has ended in America and commits to an overall increase in the quality and quantity of wetlands, including a new goal to restore, improve, and protect at least 3 million acres of wetlands over five years.

2007

The 2007 budget provides funding and support for the Wetlands Reserve Program.

June 5, 2007

The Administration issues wetlands jurisdiction guidance under the Clean Water Act to clarify application of wetlands regulations following Supreme Court decisions in *Rapanos* and *Carabell* cases.

September 26, 2008

President Bush announces that the five year wetlands goal has been met one year ahead of schedule and commits to a new goal to restore, improve, and protect at least 4 millions acres of wetlands over another five years.

Endangered Species Policy

September 29, 2005

The House passes the Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act of 2005 (H.R.3824). The Statement of Administration Policy reads, in part: "The Administration supports House passage of H.R. 3824. The Administration supports the work of the Resources Committee in developing bipartisan legislation to improve and update the Endangered Species Act, and we will work with Congress to address our concerns as the bill moves through the legislative process."

March 22, 2007

The Department of the Interior announces the Endangered Species delisting of Yellowstone grizzly bear.

June 28, 2007

President Bush acknowledges the Department of the Interior Endangered Species delisting of the American bald eagle.

February 27, 2008

The Department of the Interior announces the Endangered Species delisting of the Rocky Mountain gray wolf.

April 16, 2008

President Bush delivers remarks on climate change and states, "...the Endangered Species Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act were never meant to regulate global climate."

May 15, 2008

The Department of the Interior announces the Endangered Species listing of the polar bear.

July 31, 2008

The framework for Federal agencies to carry out recovery measures for threatened and endangered species is published in the Federal Register.

August 15, 2008

The Interior and Commerce Department's proposed rule to amend §7 regulations is published in the Federal Register.

Fishing and Hunting

March 23, 2006

The Department of the Interior creates a 12 member FACA advisory board, the Sporting Conservation Council.

August 17, 2007

President Bush signs Executive Order 13443 to facilitate the expansion and enhancement of hunting opportunities and the management of game species and their habitat.

October 20, 2007

President Bush signs Executive Order 13499 to protect striped bass and red drum fish and discusses migratory bird conservation.

September 26, 2008

President Bush issues an amendment to Executive Order 12962 on Recreational Fishing to ensure that that recreational fishing be managed as a sustainable activity in national wildlife refuges, national parks, national monuments, national marine sanctuaries, marine protected areas, and any other relevant conservation or management areas or activities under any Federal authority, consistent with applicable law.

October 3, 2008

Vice President Cheney delivers remarks on behalf of the President at the White House Conference on North American Wildlife Policy. He announces the Conservation Reserve Program access initiative and called on Congress to extend authorization of the Sporting Conservation Council and tax incentive.

Regional Initiatives

Florida Everglades Restoration

January 9, 2002

President announces the signing of a joint agreement to ensure that adequate water supplies will be available to benefit State and Federally owned natural resources.

November 12, 2003

Army Corps issues Programmatic Regulations governing restoration activities.

October 14, 2004

State of Florida's Acceler8 Program announced to provide $1.8 billion to speed important new projects; CEQ Chairman Jim Connaughton in attendance

February 1, 2006

Indian River Lagoon – South is approved by the Administration and sent to Congress.

April 19, 2007

Picayune Strand is approved by the Administration and sent to Congress.

July 18, 2007

Site 1 Authorization is approved by the Administration and sent to Congress.

Pacific Northwest Salmon Recovery

August 22, 2003

The President visits the Ice Harbor Dam in Burbank, Washington, and delivers remarks on Salmon conservation.

January 25, 2006

Chairman Connaughton speaks at the Future of Wild Pacific Salmon conference at Oregon State University, calling for a collaborative solution including closer scrutiny of harvest levels.

May 9, 2008

Federal Agencies complete the Columbia Basin Fish Accords, which commit the tribes, states and Federal agencies to agree on the new Biological Opinion authorizing the operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System.

Klamath River Basin

2002-2008

The Administration supports a cross-cut budget for Klamath Basin activities ranging from $50 – 90 million per year, a total of more than $500 million. With the help of non-Federal partners, the Federal government restores over 10,000 acres of fish habitat and banked for conservation over 800,000 acre-feet of water. The Administration also helps ensure that adequate water has been provided for farmers while continuing to spearhead efforts to recover species.

March 1, 2002

The President creates the Klamath Basin Working Group

March 29, 2002

The Presidential issues a statement on the progress of the Klamath River Working Group, and commending them for the progress they had made in addressing the problems facing the people of the region.

November 13, 2008

The President issues a statement congratulating the collaborative parties in the Klamath Basin on the Federal, state, and private agreement in principle to remove Klamath dams.

Great Lakes

May 18, 2004

President Bush signs an EO to facilitate the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force and the Promotion of a Regional Collaboration of National Significance for the Great Lakes.

July 28, 2008

The President urges Congress to approve the Great Lakes, St Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact.

October 3, 2008

The President signs into law the S.J. Res. 45 – Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact.

Gulf of Mexico

December 17, 2004

The U.S. Ocean Action Plan urges Federal government support of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance to exemplify regional collaboration for ocean and coastal policy in partnership with States, localities, and Tribes.

March 28, 2006

CEQ Chairman Connaughton recognizes the release of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Governors' Action Plan for Healthy and Resilient Coasts, 2006-2009. The Action Plan firmly establishes a practical framework and guide for meaningful and sustained progress in our shared economic and ecological stewardship of the Gulf of Mexico region.

Pacific Coast

July 2008

The West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health releases its final action plan. The WGA Action Plan identifies milestones to address a regional research plan, seafloor mapping, integrated ecosystem assessments, and West Coast Sea grant programs.

Chesapeake Bay

December 19, 2006

The President signs legislation establishing the John Smith Water Trail, the first all-water National Historic Trail in the United States.

Southeast Atlantic

October 28, 2008

CEQ Chairman Connaughton is approached by representatives from the Governors' South Atlantic Alliance requesting federal support to the Alliance. Together, the groups will collectively determine the most efficient and effective ways collaborate on the protection of the South Atlantic coastline.

December, 2008

Administration welcomes the creation of the Governor's Alliance on Coastal Conservation.

Africa

August, 2002

The Administration launches the Congo River Basin Partnership.

7

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Jim Connaughton

SUBJECT: Your Federal Government Stewardship Policy

President Bush called on the Federal community to lead by example, be good neighbors, and be good environmental stewards. Under Presidential executive orders and environmental and energy statutes, the Federal community has focused on six areas: (1) using environmental management systems to more effectively manage environmental issues while efficiently meeting their missions; (2) preventing pollution and conserving resources through recycling; (3) creating and sustaining markets for recycled content, biobased, energy, water-efficient, and environmentally preferable products; (4) reducing the environmental consequences of electronic products; (5) designing, building, and renovating buildings to be high performance, sustainable structures; and (6) increasing the use of alternative fuel vehicles and alternative fuels, while reducing fleet petroleum usage.

Policies for Federal stewardship activities in these areas were augmented by several statutes and executive orders signed by the President: the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (FSRIA); the Energy Policy Act of 2005; the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA); the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008; Executive Order (E.O.) 13221, "Energy-Efficient Standby Power Devices," and E.O. 13423, "Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management." E.O. 13423 represented a major consolidation, revamping, and performance-based streamlining of a series of prior Executive Orders and Presidential directives. Building on prior progress, these statutes and executive orders raised the bar for the Federal community by adding new requirements and setting new goals and objectives. For example, FSRIA required the Department of Agriculture to create a Federal preferential purchasing program for biobased products, while E.O. 13423 and EISA, effectively codifying the E.O. President Bush issued earlier the same year, increased the building and fleet energy efficiency and alternative energy requirements for Federal agencies and changed the baselines from 1985 and 1999, respectively, to 2003 and 2005.

In 2005, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), with assistance from the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive (OFEE) and the Department of Energy (DOE), created scorecards for measuring Federal agencies' progress in meeting the statutory and executive order requirements for environmental stewardship, energy efficiency, and transportation management. Use of the scorecards began in January of 2006, assessing 22 agencies on environmental stewardship, 20 agencies on energy management, and 18 agencies on transportation management. In 2006, none of the agencies achieved green status on environmental stewardship or transportation management, and only eight were green on energy management. By January of

2008, the number of agencies assessed in each area had increased as smaller agencies requested assessments. No agencies achieved green status on environmental stewardship, but 14 achieved green status on energy management, and two achieved green status on transportation management.

Attached are summaries of key developments and accomplishments in the principal areas which have been the focus of this Administration's environmental agenda for the Federal government.

White House Campus

On-going efforts to make the White House complex more sustainable continued during this Administration and addressed the goals and objectives of Executive Order 13423. These efforts balanced the historic and cultural nature of some of the buildings and their usage with energy, environmental, and cost considerations.

Improving energy and water efficiency. Throughout the EOP complex, more energy efficient lighting was installed, as appropriate for the building and existing fixtures. This ranged from the installation of T-8 lamps in the New Executive Office Building (NEOB) to the installation of motion sensor lighting in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building (EEOB) to replacing older, inefficient exit signs with light emitting diode (LED) exit signs. In the Executive Residence, outdoor lighting was replaced with efficient LED lighting – cutting energy usage more than 80 percent. The Executive Residence also replaced portrait lighting in some areas with a more efficient fiber optic lighting system.

Changes were made to the heating and cooling systems in each of the buildings in order to improve energy and water efficiency and, thereby, reduce the greenhouse gas emissions related to the complex. These include a Building Energy Management system that automatically shuts off heating and cooling systems after hours in three of the buildings and installation of an energy efficient central HVAC system unit in Phase I of the EEOB modernization project, which allowed for the removal of inefficient radiators and individual window units.

The complex also helps to support the development of renewable power sources. The local utility, PEPCO, generates some of its electricity from systems using recovered landfill methane gas, and a portion of that renewable energy powers the EOP complex. The Secret Service also now uses geothermal heat pumps for heating and cooling at some of its booths.

To better conserve water, low water usage toilets are being installed throughout the complex, and water saving shower heads have been installed. Low water usage fixtures also are included in Phase I of the EEOB modernization project. The lawn sprinkler systems now have timers and rain gauges to pre-empt their use as necessary. In the future, the hot water production and storage tank at the NEOB will be redesigned.

Creating Markets for Green Products and Services. EOP purchases a variety of recycled content office products and paper janitorial supplies. The buildings are cleaned with a wide variety of green cleaning products, and low impact pest management procedures, such as low impact baits, are used. Office electronic equipment meets the applicable ENERGY STAR requirements. EOP also is an early adopter of the new Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) for personal computers, laptops, and monitors. These products are available at three levels -- bronze, silver, and gold. EOP includes a bronze level requirement in awarded agreements for this equipment. EOP also tries to balance the need to protect the President and Vice President with the need to support the development of alternative fuel markets in the U.S. The EOP fleet is more than 85 percent compliant with the requirement to purchase alternative fuel vehicles and use alternative fuels.

Implementing Sustainable Design in Building Renovations. When Federal agencies occupy historic buildings, such as the EEOB, implementation of sustainable design principles must be balanced against historic preservation restrictions on changes. Despite its historic nature, the EEOB Modernization Team is certifying the EEOB's construction phases in the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program.

Re-using and Recycling Materials and Equipment. The General Services Administration manages a comprehensive recycling program in all EOP buildings. As part of its electronics stewardship activities, EOP participates in the GSA Computers for Learning Program with educational institutions, a donation program to facilitate the reuse of excess computers and computer equipment.

Environmental Management Systems

At the beginning of the Administration, Federal agencies were beginning environmental management system (EMS) implementation. In 2001, 180 facilities had either implemented or initiated implementation of an EMS. Today, nearly 1,700 facilities have environmental management systems. Of these, 666 are currently fully implemented, 205 facilities are on schedule to be fully implemented by December 31, 2008, and 797 facilities will not be fully implemented by the end of 2008. This means that EMSs at more than 52 percent of "appropriate facilities" will be implemented by December 31, 2008.

Beginning the Use of Environmental Management Systems in Federal Agencies (2001 – 2002). The April, 2000, E.O. 13148 established requirements for the application of EMSs at "appropriate Federal facilities." In FY 2001, 15 agencies conducted a first-ever EMS "gap analysis" of existing EMSs. In April of 2002, CEQ and OMB sent a letter to the heads of agencies emphasizing the importance of developing EMSs as key tools for meeting the President's management and stewardship agendas. In June of 2002, OMB issued FY 2004 budget guidance that supported the use of EMSs by all Federal agencies. By the end of 2002, more than 180 Federal facilities had developed and were implementing EMSs. Through these actions, the Administration made it clear that environmental protection in the Federal government would be based on structured, formal systems that conformed to the highest international standards for the management of environmental risks and opportunities.

Promoting Environmental Stewardship through EMSs (2002 – 2005). During this period, EMSs were increasingly employed to promote environmental stewardship strategies such as green procurement, recycling, waste prevention, beneficial landscaping, and green building design. Using EMSs to implement those strategies significantly upgraded Federal facility capabilities to achieve superior environmental leadership and performance. Concurrently, EPA and other agencies developed guidance tools, training materials, and crosswalks between the requirements and actions required to achieve environmental goals, such as green purchasing and the use of efficient electronic products. By the end of 2005, more than 2,300 Federal facilities were pursuing EMS.

Establishing EMS Common Metrics (2006 – 2008). Beginning in 2006, more than 2,300 Federal facilities reported their progress towards recognized milestones in EMS development, implementation, and maintenance. Among others, these metrics measure how EMS helps to improve community relations and fiscal efficiency, as well as how it has enhanced environmental and energy management. Data collection and dissemination have been facilitated through an on-line data collection tool hosted by the FedCenter.gov website. Further, an interagency EMS metrics workgroup created a reporting template that allows responses from facilities to be reported and consolidated for the parent agency's review.

Expanding EMSs to Include Energy and Transportation Management (2007 – 2008). E.O. 13423 directs agencies to extend the application of EMSs to "appropriate organizational levels" and also to apply them to the potential environmental consequences of energy and transportation operations. EMSs are now being used by Federal agencies to manage the environmental aspects of vehicle fleets, alternative fuels, energy and water usage in buildings, the acquisition of office electronics and other products and supplies, and the design of green buildings. Federal agencies are also evaluating EMSs for their organizational levels to gain the advantages and benefits of structured environmental management and stewardship across the agency structures. It is foreseeable that more than 1,000 organizational-level EMSs will eventually be implemented in Federal agencies. No other country has mandated the use of EMSs in their governments to the same degree as the U.S. Government.

Recycling and Waste Prevention

In FY 2006, 12 Federal agencies, up from only 2 in 2001, recycled more than 35 percent of the solid waste they generated, meeting or exceeding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's national 35 percent recycling goal. In addition to traditional municipal recyclables such as old newspapers and beverage containers, Federal agencies recycled construction and demolition debris, metals, household hazardous waste, used cooking grease, tires, and other difficult-to-handle wastes. Agencies also donated or recycled millions of pounds of old electronics.

Progress Toward Achieving or Exceeding the National 35% Recycling Goal (2001 – 2008). Executive Orders directing Federal agencies to implement waste prevention and recycling date back to 1991. By 2001, the EPA had set a national recycling goal of 35 percent. Both the Departments of Defense and Energy had exceeded the 35 percent goal, including recycled construction & demolition debris (C&D). Most agencies had set a 35 percent recycling rate by 2005, but by 2006, only eight agencies and three agency components had exceeded the 35 percent goal.

In his November 15, 2006 America Recycles Day proclamation, President Bush noted that "partnerships between government agencies, businesses, industries, and private organizations help us to improve practices of recycling, re-use, and waste reduction." The March 2007 E.O. 13423 implementing instructions directed Federal agencies to re-affirm existing recycling goals or establish new goals to be achieved by December 2010. Twenty agencies established recycling goals of 35 percent or higher, with several agencies also including construction & demolition debris in their goals. In 2007, nine agencies reported recycling more than 35 percent of waste materials. Agencies expanded their recycling efforts to include more composting, office electronics, toner and ink jet cartridges, cell phones, and batteries. Agencies also expanded partnerships with local governments and non-governmental organizations, in several instances helping local governments in remote locations to create recycling opportunities that otherwise would not be available.

Managing Toxic and Hazardous Chemicals (2004 – 2008). E.O. 13148 called for a 50 percent reduction in the use of certain chemicals in specific applications by the end of 2006. In May of 2004, EPA, in coordination with OFEE, identified the following chemicals and applications for Federal agency action: mercury in switches and measuring devices, cadmium in electroplating processes, lead in soldering, naphthalene in pesticides, and polychlorinated biphenyls in insulating materials (dielectric fluids). Because guidance regarding alternatives was not issued, Federal efforts to reduce use of these chemicals in these applications were minimal.

The 2007 E.O. 13423 implementing instructions adopted a new direction and instructed Federal agencies to develop plans for managing and reducing their toxic and hazardous chemicals usage. It allows each agency the flexibility to identify and focus on reducing the chemicals or chemical-containing products used in its operations. They also can approach chemicals reduction on an agency-wide basis or tailor their goals to varying chemical usage within their organizations and facilities. Eighteen agencies submitted plans to reduce these chemicals to OFEE in January of 2008. In support of EPA objectives, OFEE has also disseminated information on tritium-containing exit signs and conducted surveys on mercury-containing thermometers in the Federal Government.

Market Development through Government Acquisition

At the beginning of this Administration, Federal purchase initiatives for alternative fuel vehicles, renewable energy, and products that had recycled content and energy efficiency were separate and uncoordinated programs. In 2008, 20 Federal agencies now have written, integrated plans and policies to purchase products that are environmentally preferable and that have recycled and biobased content or are energy efficient. These plans also mandate the purchase of alternative fuel vehicles and alternative fuels, renewable energy, and products that eliminate or have reduced levels of toxic or hazardous constituents.

Creating Markets for Biobased Products (2002 – 2008). On May 13, 2002, President Bush signed the *Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002*, which created a Federal purchasing preference program to create and sustain markets for products made from renewable agricultural, animal, or forestry materials. Working with OMB and OFEE, the Department of Agriculture created the Federal BioPreferred Program, which provides guidance and a framework for Federal procurement, designated 33 biobased items for Federal procurement, and will in the near term designate additional items and a labeling program. By 2007, Federal agencies purchased a broad variety of biobased products made from soy, corn, wood byproducts, and other biobased materials, including lubricants and construction and cleaning products, thereby creating additional markets for America's farmers.

Creating the Policy Infrastructure (2002 – 2008). At the beginning of this Administration, requirements to purchase green products were found only in the socio-economic subpart of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). OFEE worked with OMB and the Federal Acquisition Regulation Councils to revise the FAR in 2000, 2001, 2003, and 2007 to add green purchasing policies, procedures, and clauses. This allowed the Federal acquisition community to implement green purchasing for both large and small purchases.

Expanding Markets by Educating Federal Purchasers (2002 – 2008). At the beginning of this Administration, there was no formal green purchasing training available in the Federal government. OFEE created and presented training to hundreds of agency contracting officials and purchase holders. OFEE created an on-line course hosted on the Office of the Personnel Management's GoLearn website, assisted the General Services Administration to include green purchasing in its training for purchase card holders and this year, worked with the Defense Acquisition University to create an updated on-line Green Procurement course that was launched in the summer of 2008. In its first month, more than 500 agency and contractor personnel took the DAU course.

Electronic Products Stewardship

At the beginning of the Administration, Federal agencies joined together in the Federal Electronic Stewardship Working Group to the address the implementation of better life-cycle management practices for Federal electronics. Today, all agencies are required by E.O. 13423 to engage in better life-cycle management of their electronics. Federal agencies are seeking products registered as meeting the Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool, a set of environmental performance criteria for personal computers, monitors, and laptops. They also are seeking computer products that reduce standby power, which is estimated to save taxpayers more than $400 million in annual energy costs over the next six years.

Electronic Products Reuse and Recycling (2001 – 2008). The rapid growth of electronics has created a significant stream of obsolete and discarded electronic products. In the late 1990s, Federal agencies began to enter into management contracts to ensure that these products were reused or recycled, rather than sent to landfills. In 2003, OFEE, in collaboration with EPA, began the Federal Electronics Challenge (FEC). The FEC is a partnership program to procure and lease environmentally preferable electronic products and reduce their impacts during use and at disposal. The FEC currently has more than 200 agency partners, covering an estimated 630,000 Federal employees and contractors. As part of America Recycles Day (ARD) 2005, OFEE, EPA, the Department of Justice, and several other Federal partners launched the Federal Electronics Reuse and Recycling Challenge (ERRC) to encourage all Federal facilities to recycle, or donate their used computers. The program has successfully reused and recycled more than 6 million pounds of such products to date.

In FY 2005, EPA awarded a government-wide acquisition contract (GWAC) for electronics recycling services. Known as the Recycling Electronics and Asset Disposition (READ) services program, the GWAC provides all Federal agencies with a procurement tool to properly manage, recycle, and dispose of obsolete products. Federal Prison Industries (FPI), under its trade name UNICOR, also helps recycle computers and other electronic items in a safe manner, while fulfilling the Agency's mission to train prison inmates.

Electronic Products Memorandum of Understanding (2004 – 2006). In November of 2004, 11 Federal agencies and the Executive Office of the President signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), *"Promoting Sustainable Environmental Stewardship of Federal Electronics Assets,"* to demonstrate environmental stewardship in the management of electronic products. The signatory agencies committed to increase the demand for greener electronic products and encourage the growth of the infrastructure for reuse, demanufacturing, and recycling of obsolete equipment.

Creating Voluntary, Consensus Standards for Electronic Equipment (2006 – 2008). EPA and various large government IT purchasers developed the Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) – environmental criteria that goes beyond energy efficiency to address the reduction of toxic and hazardous constituents, promote the use of recycled content and biobased materials, reduce packaging, and encourage manufacturers to create corporate sustainability policies. EPEAT was created to distinguish "green" electronic products in the marketplace. To date, there are over 800 EPEAT registered products listed on the EPEAT Registry that are available in the marketplace through 28 different manufacturers.

Expanding Electronics Stewardship to All Federal Agencies (2007 – 2008). E.O. 13423 applies the terms of the MOU to all Federal agencies. Specifically, agencies must meet at least 95 percent of their needs with EPEAT-registered electronic products, unless there is no EPEAT standard for such products; enable the ENERGY STAR feature on agency computers and monitors; establish and implement policies to extend the useful life of agency electronic equipment; and use environmentally sound practices with respect to disposition of agency electronic equipment that has reached the end of its useful life. As a result of E.O. 13423, 18 agencies have created electronic products stewardship implementation plans.

Sustainable Design in Federal Buildings

At the beginning of the Administration, Federal agencies had reduced their energy intensity in buildings by 23 percent compared to the 1985 baseline, as required by the Energy Policy Act of 1992. By FY 2005, Federal agencies had improved energy efficiency by almost 30 percent over the prior 20 years. E.O. 13423 built on this progress by changing the baseline year to 2003 and requiring Federal agencies to reduce their building energy intensity by 3 percent annually through the end of 2015. In FY 2007, based on site energy use per gross square foot, the Government cut its energy intensity by an additional 3 percent.

During FY 2005, Federal agencies achieved a greenhouse gas emission reduction of 22.1 percent, going from 14.9 million metric tons of carbon equivalent (MTCE) in FY 1990 to 11.6 MTCE in FY 2005.

In January of 2006, 19 Federal agencies signed a Memorandum of Understanding committing to meet the Guiding Principles for High Performance and Sustainable Buildings. Under E.O. 13423, all major Federal agencies must meet the Guiding Principles, and all of them now have sustainable building implementation plans for doing so. By the end of 2006, more than 156 buildings registered for the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, up from 50 in 2001. In addition, the Executive Order covers all new construction, major renovation, and 15 percent of existing building inventory by 2015.

Promoting High Performance Buildings (2000 – 2008). The Federal Government's real property portfolio totals more than 1.2 million assets, including more than 505,000 buildings, both owned and leased. As one of the world's largest real estate owners, the Federal government recognizes that its facilities have tremendous impact on the natural environment, the economy. Stepping up to this responsibility, Federal agencies have made great strides in meeting this challenge through various commitments, far-reaching policies, improved planning, and sophisticated technologies.

OFEE, with support from the Interagency Sustainability Working Group (ISWG), prepared a sustainable design and construction report in the fall of 2003. This report, "The Federal Commitment to Green Building: Experiences & Expectations," outlined Federal building environmental performance objectives, assessed which sustainable building policies and practices the Federal government is following, and recommended further actions to progress. In December 2003, OFEE formed the Federal Green Buildings Council to help guide agencies with these actions. The Council, in partnership with the ISWG, helps Federal agencies to make business cases for sustainable buildings.

In January, 2006, more than 150 Federal facility managers and decision makers came together at the "White House Summit on Federal Sustainable Buildings" to witness the signing of the "Federal Leadership in High Performance and Sustainable Buildings Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)." The MOU was the first-ever government-wide effort to define specific guiding principles for greening Federal buildings and provide leadership in the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of high performance and sustainable buildings.

In January 2007, EO 13423 made the guiding principles of the MOU mandatory. These principles include employing integrated design, optimizing energy performance, protecting and conserving water, enhancing indoor environmental quality, and reducing the environmental impact of materials. The EO also set an aggressive goal for applying these practices to at least 15 percent of existing capital building assets by the end of 2015. The Whole Building Design Guide (WBDG) web site (www.wbdg.org) assists agencies in implementing the guiding principles. Available resources include information on designing, operating, commissioning, and monitoring sustainable new buildings and renovations, as well as information on specific topics, such as moisture control, creative funding strategies, guidance for vendors, and managing construction waste.

One indicator of the Federal government's leadership on sustainability lies with the number of Federal buildings that have been certified through the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC)

Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED®) program. As of March of 2008, 82 Federal buildings have been certified under LEED®). Department of Defense (DOD), and DOE are the leading agencies in the LEED-certified building count. Taken together, the 82 buildings account for 9.7 million gross square feet. Nearly 600 Federal building projects are estimated to be registered for eventual LEED certification.

Federal agencies have also sought and received the Energy Star® building label. Since 1999, approximately 175 Federal buildings have achieved the energy efficiency and other criteria of the Energy Star® program. GSA and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities combine to make up 86 percent of the labeled buildings. Thirty-one Federal buildings achieved or renewed the Energy Star® label in 2007.

Fleet Management

In 2000, the first year it was required, Federal agencies met their Energy Policy Act of 1992 goal that 75 percent of new acquisitions of certain vehicles would be alternative fuel vehicles. They continue to meet or exceed this requirement. Their use of alternative fuels has been increasing as fueling stations become available, purchasing 7 million gasoline gallon equivalents of alternative fuels such as ethanol and biodiesel in FY 2007, a significant increase from the FY 2000 purchase of 1.4 gasoline gallon equivalents.

Increasing Alternative Fuel Vehicle Purchases (2001 - 2007). The Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPAct 1992) requires Federal agencies to demonstrate from FY 2000 and beyond that 75 percent of their annual light-duty vehicle acquisitions in "covered fleets" – fleets of 20 or more light-duty vehicles -- are alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs). Since FY 2003, the overall Federal fleet exceeded its EPAct 1992 AFV acquisition requirements. In 2002, Federal agencies used 55,000 AFVs. By 2007, there were 121,778 AFVs in the fleet.

In signing E.O. 13423 in January of 2007, President Bush said, "Today I signed an executive order that says we're going to commit the government to the following things: that we're going to purchase more hybrid and flexible-fuel vehicles that run on ethanol -- because we own a lot of cars, and therefore, it's one thing to say, this is the goal; it's another thing to actually participate in achieving that goal, and that's what we're going to do." As a result of E.O. 13423 and National Defense Authorization Act of 2007 Federal fleet provisions, Federal agencies have also begun pilot uses of hydrogen vehicles and to add hybrid vehicles to their fleets.

Increasing Alternative Fuel Use (2001 – 2007). At the beginning of this Administration, Federal agencies met statutory and executive order requirements to purchase alternative fuels by purchasing E85 ethanol, B20 biodiesel, compressed natural gas, and liquefied petroleum gas. By 2003, agencies had purchased 3.1 million gasoline gallon equivalents (GGE) of alternative fuels. By 2007, agencies purchased 7.03 million GGE of alternative fuels, representing a 29.5 percent increase from the FY 2005 baseline and surpassing the E.O. 13423 requirements.

Expanding Alternative Fuel Sources and Use (2006 – 2008). The Energy Policy Act of 2005 requires Federal agencies to use alternative fuel in dual fuel vehicles unless DOE grants them a waiver. To help agencies find E85, DOE created a GIS system for locating fueling stations offering E85. Despite these efforts, growth in alternative fueling infrastructure remains a goal.

Reducing Fleet Petroleum Consumption (2001 – 2007). In 2001, agencies were required to reduce their fleet petroleum consumption by 20 percent by 2005, compared to a 1999 baseline. Although most agencies implemented measures to reduce petroleum consumption, there were only minor reductions (about 1.5 percent in FY 2002 and less than 0.1 percent in FY 2003) in petroleum fuel consumption due to expanded agency mission requirements, a shift in acquisition from light-duty to medium-duty vehicles, and insufficient usage of alternative fuels in AFVs. In FY 2006, the reduction in petroleum consumption was 6.3 percent.

Reducing Fleet Petroleum Consumption (2007 – 2008). When signing E.O. 13423, President Bush said, "We're going to reduce the gas consumption in the Federal fleet by 20 percent over 10 years. We're going to be joining with America -- we set the goal; it doesn't make much sense for the Federal government to set the goal and then not participate, and we will." Thus, E.O. 13423 instituted a new goal of reducing each fleet's total consumption of petroleum products by 2 percent annually, from a 2005 baseline, through the end of fiscal year 2015. In FY 2007, successful petroleum reduction efforts by covered Federal agencies achieved a 3.9 percent reduction from the FY 2005 baseline consumption, only slightly lower than the combined E.O. 13423 petroleum reduction requirement of 4.0 percent for that year. Fourteen of the 21 covered agencies achieved their FY 2007 petroleum reduction target.

Leading by Example: Stewardship by the Federal Government (2000-2008)

July 31, 2001

The President delivers remarks on energy from the Oval Office, where he states, "the Federal government can be a good steward of our resources, and we fully intend to be."

The President issues an Executive Order requiring each agency, when it purchases commercially available, off-the-shelf products that use external standby power devices, or that contain an internal standby power function, to purchase products that use no more than one watt in their standby power consuming mode.

November 15, 2001

Proclamation: America Recycles Day 2001
President Bush recognizes, "as more products made with recycled materials reach the marketplace, individual consumers, corporations, and Federal agencies are purchasing these goods as cost-effective and responsible business solutions."

April 22, 2002

The President delivers remarks on Earth Day 2002 in Wilmington, New York. He announces that the Federal government has a substantial responsibility for environmental stewardship and that it will continue to act with, "clear purpose to prevent needless and, at times, reckless disregard of the air and the water and the soil and the wildlife."

April 30, 2002

The President appoints John Howard as the Federal Environmental Executive (FEE). The Federal Environmental Executive oversees the government's own environmental and natural resource compliance, stewardship, and performance, including facility operation, environmental management systems, energy management, and procurement activities under a series of Executive Orders.

May 13, 2002

The President signs the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, which orders the creation of a Federal purchasing preference program to create and sustain markets for products made from renewable agricultural, animal, or forestry materials.

November 14, 2002

Proclamation: America Recycles Day 2002

President Bush recognizes the Federal government's contributions to the important recycling goals by purchasing paper, retread tires, re-refined oil, concrete, insulation, and other products containing recycled materials.

December 2, 2002

The Office of the Federal Environmental (OFEE) issues "Leading by Example: A Report to the President on Federal Energy and Environmental Management (2000-2001)". This report highlights the activities and accomplishments of the Federal community in meeting President Bush's charge to lead by example and be good environmental stewards. It discusses Federal agency progress in implementing environmental management systems, waste prevention and recycling, green purchasing, building energy efficiency, sustainable design/green buildings, and the use of alternative fuel vehicles and petroleum use reductions.

September 17, 2003

The OFEE issues "The Federal Commitment to Green Building: Experiences and Expectations" report. This groundbreaking report assesses, for the first time, what the Federal government is doing, in policy and practice, to make its buildings more environmentally sustainable. The report highlights the advances within the Federal government, identifies barriers to greater progress, and provides recommendations for how the Federal sector can overcome obstacles and construct more sustainable buildings.

November 14, 2003

Proclamation: America Recycles Day 2003
President Bush states that America must practice responsible stewardship of our natural resources and recognizes the increase in recycling in the last two decades. He encourages, "individuals, businesses, communities, tribes, and government to continue to work together as good stewards of America's resources. By using our resources wisely, we help build a stronger economy and a healthier future."

September 24, 2004

President Bush appoints Edwin Pinero as the FEE, succeeding John Howard.

October 18, 2004

The OFEE issues "Leading by Example: A Report to the President on Federal Energy and Environmental Management (2002-2003)" report. This report highlights the activities and accomplishments of the Federal community in meeting President Bush's charge to lead by example and be good environmental stewards between 2002 and 2003. It discusses Federal agency progress in implementing environmental management systems, waste prevention and recycling, green purchasing, building energy efficiency, sustainable design/green buildings, and the use of alternative fuel vehicles and petroleum use reductions.

October 21, 2004

The White House hosts the White House Summit on Federal Electronics Stewardship to commit Federal agencies to the goals and objectives of the Federal Electronics Challenge, a partnership program that encourages Federal facilities and agencies to purchase greener electronic products, reduce impacts of electronic products during use, and manage obsolete electronics in an environmentally safe way.

October 6, 2004

The FEE issues recommendations from the President's Management Council Environmental Compliance Management Improvement Initiative. The FEE announced the results and recommendations based on a two-year effort to identify best Federal compliance management practices. The findings and recommendations are based on the premise that Federal organizations and facilities will continue to develop and implement environmental management systems in support of the Administration's environmental compliance goals for Federal agencies.

November 15, 2004

Proclamation: America Recycles Day 2004
President Bush notes that our Nation is dedicated to good stewardship of our natural resources and reaffirms our commitment to conserving our resources and recycling. He states, "Through curbside collection and recyclable drop-off centers, communities across our Nation are demonstrating their commitment to protecting our environment and to building a better future for our next generation."

November 15, 2004

Senior Environmental and Energy Executives, Chief Information Officers, and Procurement Executives from the Departments of Defense, Energy, and the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other Federal agencies signed a Memorandum of Understanding, "Promoting Sustainable Environmental Stewardship of Federal Electronic Assets," to increase the demand for green electronics and promote the sustainable management of electronic assets throughout the Federal government. By signing the Memorandum, Federal Agencies became members of the Federal Electronics Challenge.

August 8, 2005

The President signs the Energy Policy Act of 2005, establishing energy reduction goals for Federal buildings, establishing minimum percentages for the percentage of electricity purchases that must be from renewable fuel sources, requiring Federal agencies to use alternative fuel in dual fuel vehicles unless the Department of Energy grants them a waiver, and requiring Federal agencies to purchase ENERGY STAR and Federal Energy Management Program-designated energy efficient products.

November 16, 2005

Proclamation: America Recycles Day 2005
President Bush acknowledges the Federal government's efforts to expand opportunities for recycling across the country. He mentions that the Energy Policy Act of 2005 will increase the use of recycled materials in Federal construction projects.

January 24-25, 2006

The White House hosts the first ever White House Summit on Federal Sustainable Buildings to discuss and help strengthen Federal policy and strategies to reduce the overall environmental and energy impacts from Federal buildings. The Summit, sponsored by CEQ and OMB, provides a unique opportunity to engage senior-level government officials from the environmental, energy, real property and finance/acquisition communities to work in partnership to address the critical issue of how to make our buildings more sustainable.

January 24, 2006

Seventeen Federal agencies and the Executive Office of the President sign the Federal Leadership in High Performance and Sustainable Buildings Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), committed to Federal leadership in the design, construction, and operation of High-Performance and Sustainable Buildings. A major element of this strategy is the implementation of common strategies for planning, acquiring, siting, designing, building, operating, and maintaining High Performance and Sustainable Buildings.

November 16, 2006

Proclamation: America Recycles Day 2006
President Bush notes the "partnerships between government agencies, businesses, industries, and private organizations help us to improve practices of recycling, re-use, and waste reduction."

January 24, 2007

The President signs an Executive Order requiring Federal agencies to lead by example in advancing the nation's energy security and environmental performance by achieving strong new goals in the areas of energy efficiency, use of alternative fuels and power generation, environmental management systems, recycling and waste prevention, green purchasing, electronic products stewardship, sustainable design of buildings, and fleet management. In a speech discussing his Administration's energy initiative at the DuPont Theater, the President noted that he had just signed the Executive Order and declared the

Federal government will, "increase our purchases of renewable power from new sources. We're going to reduce the gas consumption in the federal fleet by 20 percent over 10 years. We're going to be joining with America."

March 28, 2007

CEQ issues implementing Instructions for the Executive Order from January 24, 2007. They provide guidance to the Federal agencies for addressing the goals and objectives of the January 2007 Executive Order. They address environmental management systems, compliance management plans, reporting, training, energy and water management, green purchasing, management of toxic and hazardous materials, recycling, sustainable design/green buildings, vehicle fleet management, and electronics stewardship.

August 3, 2007

CEQ Chairman Connaughton issues a memorandum to the Federal agencies directing them to take appropriate actions to significantly increase their use of energy savings performance contracts and utility energy savings contracts to achieve the E.O. 13423 and statutory requirements to decrease building energy intensity.

November 15, 2007

Proclamation: America Recycles Day 2007
The President states, "Recycling is one of our Nation's most successful environmental initiatives, and my Administration is working to increase opportunities for our citizens, communities, and businesses to recycle. The Resource Conservation Challenge, created by the Environmental Protection Agency, encourages public and private partnerships to promote recycling. Through Plug-In To eCycling, we are helping reduce waste by providing consumers with information on how and where they can donate or safely recycle old electronics. Working together, we can conserve valuable resources and energy by managing materials more efficiently."

December 19, 2007

The President signs the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. This legislation codifies many elements of Executive Order issued by President Bush at the beginning of the year. The President increases the building and fleet energy efficiency requirements for Federal agencies and changed the baselines from 1985 and 1999, respectively, to 2003 and 2005.

January 15, 2008

The OFEE issues clarification of conformance requirements in the January 2007 Executive Order implementing instructions. This document clarifies the terms used in the E.O. 13423 Implementing Instructions relative to environmental management system declaration of conformance. It outlines the principles and requirements that apply to a declaration of conformance under the E.O., including conformance auditing, management review of auditing results, and formal declaration that a Federal EMS is fully implemented as required by E.O. 13423.

April 22, 2008

The OFEE issues the "Leading by Example: Federal Government Environmental and Energy Efficiency Accomplishments for 2004 – 2006" report. This report describes Federal government stewardship activities during 2004-2006 in environmental management system implementation, recycling, waste prevention, green purchasing, building energy efficiency, electronics stewardship, sustainable design/green building, and alternative fuel use petroleum use reductions. These activities led up to President Bush's January 2007 Executive Order. It provides hundreds of examples of Federal agency sustainable activities.

May 22, 2008

Congress passes the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, amending the requirement for the U.S. Department of Agriculture to develop a label for biobased products and ordering Federal agencies to give preference to biobased products containing at least 5 percent intermediate ingredients and feedstocks.

May 30, 2008

The President appoints Joe Cascio as the Federal Environmental Executive, succeeding Edwin Pinero.

8

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Jim Connaughton

SUBJECT: Your Air Quality and Brownfields Policy

Revitalizing our Urban Environment

During the 2000 election campaign, the President focused on the need to restore the health and economic vitality of our urban areas. As part of this effort, the President called for sensible reforms of two well-intentioned but outdated environmental laws that were creating significant obstacles to reinvestment and re-growth. One major impediment was the threat of open-ended Superfund cleanup liability for anyone wanting to purchase and build on abandoned industrial properties, leaving an estimated 450,000-site blight on the urban landscape. The other major impediment was the enormous investment uncertainty about whether States and localities could confidently meet tough new Clean Air Act air quality standards and dramatically improve public health in a way that keeps electricity affordable and reliable, and enables investment in renewed and expanded manufacturing capacity and transportation systems. Absent reforms of these programs, many urban areas would essentially be relegated to the status of "do not invest here zones," leading to further erosion of good businesses and jobs, and making it harder to sustain valuable community infrastructure such as schools, churches, community centers, roads, rail and neighborhoods. With these reforms, local government, business, and public health leaders would be able to develop a generational strategy of reinvestment in both the economy and health of their communities.

Brownfields Initiative

In his Brownfields Initiative, the President called for legislative reform of the Superfund program to provide liability protection for prospective purchasers, contiguous property owners, and innocent landowners of abandoned industrial sites, and to authorize increased funding for State and local programs to assess potential contamination and, in the relatively limited situations where it is found, to help pay to clean it up so the site can be put back to productive community use. In less than one year, the President achieved one of his earliest legislative victories when a unanimous Congress passed the Small Business Liability and Brownfields Revitalization Act, which the President signed in January 2002.

To kick-start the initiative, the President's FY2003 Budget nearly doubled the funding for brownfields revitalization. Over $1 billion total has been provided since 2001. This funding has been used to leverage $11.4 billion dollars from private and other sources for site clean-ups and other site specific work. With the stigma of contamination removed, private investors and communities are turning these sites back into businesses, greenspace, and housing, fulfilling the President's commitment to revitalize our urban areas. As a result, almost 11,000 sites have been assessed since 2001, including several hundred requiring cleanup before redevelopment. The clean bill of health that this process delivers is making thousands more acres ready for redevelopment.

New National Ambient Air Quality Standards

Since 1980, America's air quality has been steadily improving. Since 1970, annual emissions of priority pollutants—sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, volatile organic compounds, particulate matter, and carbon monoxide—declined by more than 50 percent while our economy nearly tripled. The strong new policies developed and implemented by the Bush Administration are helping to sustain and accelerate these results going forward.

Prior to taking office, the President voiced a strong commitment not only to improving our Nation's air quality, but to providing more effective Federal tools to meet those standards on time and more cost-effectively. Shortly after taking office in 2001, the President successfully completed the legal process, started by the Clinton Administration, to defend in court stringent new air quality standards for smog and particulate matter adopted in 1997. The resulting emission reductions will help prolong lives, reduce asthma attacks and other respiratory illnesses, and prevent emergency room visits and lost work days and school days. In addition to public health benefits, the new standards will help to improve visibility in national parks and reduce acid rain.

Since then, in 2006 and then in 2007, the Administration finalized even stronger new national ambient air quality standards that are the most stringent in our Nation's history. The changes will improve public health protection, preventing an estimated 1,100 cases of bronchitis, 6,100 cases of aggravated asthma, 1,900 hospital and emergency room visits, and 890 nonfatal heart attacks annually by 2020.

Controlling Power Plant Emissions

Prior to taking office, the President identified the need for a balanced and comprehensive energy policy that takes into account the importance of improving air quality. Consistent with this balanced approach, the President announced his intent to work with the Congress on a multipollutant strategy to require power plants to reduce harmful air emissions and at the same time to reform the New Source Review regulations to enable investments in efficiency, reliability, and safety of our power generation and industrial facilities.

Clear Skies Initiative

In February 2002, the President proposed the most significant step America has ever taken to cut power plant emissions by calling on Congress to enact Clear Skies legislation in February 2002. This initiative would dramatically improve air quality by cutting transboundary emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx), sulfur dioxide (SO2), and, for the first time, mercury by approximately

70 percent from power plants. Through a cost-effective market-based trading system modeled on the successful Acid Rain program, Clear Skies would provide some of the most significant reduction in the number of premature deaths, hospitalizations, and missed work and school days due to respiratory problems. Clear Skies also would provide regulatory certainty and appropriate timelines for power plants to make early and cost effective investments in pollution control technology, producing necessary compliance at the most reasonable cost. Even so, fully implementing Clear Skies would have required more than $50 billion in investment on new construction and on projects to install and operate pollution controls on existing plants—making it one of the single largest mandatory investments in pollution control and public health in history, about twice as much as the highly acclaimed Acid Rain program. In addition, the Clear Skies emissions reduction targets were so stringent that the program would, along with other existing programs, enable most areas in most States to fully comply with the Bush Administration's increasingly stringent air quality standards without having to design new requirements at the local level otherwise required by the Clean Air Act. And areas that would not achieve full compliance would still have significantly less to do in controlling sources of emissions at the local level.

Notwithstanding these clear benefits, the House and Senate did not vote on Clear Skies legislation in 2002. It was re-introduced in February 2003 and in January 2005. The House never moved the bill out of committee. The Senate marked up the bill in committee in January 2005, but the final vote was deadlocked with a tie. Despite the President's urging in the 2003 and 2005 State of the Union, as well as multiple speeches, Congress never passed Clear Skies legislation.

In order to avoid further delay in compelling action to reduce emissions, improve public health, and foster new investment, in March 2005 the President announced his intention to have the Environmental Protection Agency work to achieve the goals of Clear Skies through regulation under the current Clean Air Act. These rules were called the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) and the Clear Air Mercury Rule (CAMR). EPA finalized CAIR and CAMR later in 2005. Importantly, these rules were undertaken at the Administration's discretion—neither the Clean Air Act nor a court required the Federal government to promulgate these rules. The Clean Air Act places the primary burden of compliance with air quality requirements on the States. However, based on his experience as a governor, President Bush understood the value of a broad and more cost effective regional approach when it comes to regulating power plant emissions.

In keeping with the goals of the Clear Skies Initiative, CAIR will provide the most significant public health benefits since the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments. With full implementation, CAIR will produce over a reduction in SO2 of over 70 percent, virtually eliminating acid rain in the northeast, and would decrease Nox, which contributes to smog, by over 60 percent.

The CAMR produced the first Federally-mandated requirement that coal-fired electric utilities reduce their emissions of mercury. This rule also made the United States the first country in the world to regulate mercury emissions from utilities. When fully implemented, in conjunction with CAIR, this rule would reduce utility mercury emissions by nearly 70 percent, with some new plants achieving individual reductions of 90 percent or more depending on coal type and technology availability.

Both rules, however, were challenged in court by a variety of parties and for a variety of reasons. The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals vacated CAMR in February 2008. The Administration has requested review of CAMR by the U.S. Supreme Court. And even though all 28 affected States adopted CAIR and it enjoyed strong support from a wide variety of constituencies, the D.C. Circuit also vacated the rule in its entirety in July 2008 on grounds unrelated to its stringency.

Given the strong support for the rule, the Administration undertook a significant effort to obtain an interim solution from Congress while appeals or other administrative options could be considered. Administration officials conducted extensive outreach to members of Congress, Governors, State agency heads, utilities, labor unions, and environmental organizations to fully reinstate CAIR pending subsequent revision by EPA or the Congress. Although most States wanted to reinstate the rule in order to achieve its full health benefits as soon as possible, there was significant pressure from a few States and environmental organizations to reinstate only Phase I of the rule (about a 40 percent reduction), based on an assumption that Congress would pass new, more stringent legislation--a proposition that EPA analysis shows would not produce the same amount of cumulative benefits due to delays from the legislative debate alone, which would be exacerbated by delays from subsequent regulation, revised State planning, and resolution of inevitable lawsuits. After much discussion during a limited, end-of-session period just before the 2008 elections, no resolution was reached.

At the same time, the Administration filed for a rehearing in the D.C. Circuit on September 25, 2008 asking the Court to at least stay its mandate, and allow CAIR to go into effect, until EPA promulgates a new rule. On December 23, 2008, the Court reversed its decision on vacatur and remanded CAIR back to EPA to modify the rule to make it consistent with its July 2008 ruling. That means the core requirements of CAIR will remain in place to drive new investment in pollution controls and improvements in public health while EPA works on correcting the rule.

In addition to new power plant emission reductions, the Administration committed to needed New Source Review (NSR) reform in 2001 to encourage energy efficiency and facility modernization. This effort kicked off immediately with the National Energy Policy Report to the President, which outlined a comprehensive long-term strategy to integrate energy, environment, and economic policy. Principle objectives in the report include modernizing conservation and infrastructure, increasing energy supplies, accelerating the protection and improvement of the environment, and increasing energy security.

In the report, the NEPD Group recommended that the President direct the Administrator of the EPA to review the New Source Review regulations to determine the impact on investment in energy efficiency and environmental protection. EPA submitted its report to the President in 2002 with the conclusion that the NSR program has impeded or resulted in the cancellation of projects at *existing* power plants and refineries that would maintain and improve efficiency and reduce air pollution. As a result, the Administration moved forward on reforms to NSR that would remove barriers to pollution prevention projects, energy efficiency improvements, and investments in new technologies and modernization of facilities.

The Administration finalized the NSR Improvement Rule in December 2002. The new rule provides greater certainty about which activities are covered by the NSR program; removes barriers to environmentally beneficial projects; provide incentives for industries to improve environmental performance at the same time they make changes to their facilities; and maintain provisions of NSR and other Clean Air Act programs that protect air quality. In 2005, The D.C. Circuit vacated some provisions of the rule but upheld critical elements, including how to more accurately calculate emission levels before and after a project. For emissions calculated after the project, industry is now allowed to use projected actual emissions and exclude demand growth and focus on increases actually caused by the modification. These improvements will remove confusing and unintended regulatory barriers to investments in energy efficiency and pollution control projects, while preserving the intended environmental benefits of the NSR program. The Administration finalized the NSR Improvement Rule with these important remaining provisions in June 2007.

The Administration also finalized the 2003 Equipment Replacement Rule to allow routine maintenance and repair of equipment that would not be subject NSR. This rule would have encouraged companies to invest in new technologies and modernize their equipment, which would allow them to produce more energy while improving air quality. In March 2006, the D.C. Circuit vacated the Equipment Replacement Rule. The Administration requested review by the U.S. Supreme Court but was denied.

Transportation Emissions

The President's Initiative for Cleaner Fuels and Engines helps to substantially lower emissions, improve public health, and further enable States to meet and sustain compliance with national air quality standards by lowering the sulfur content of diesel fuel, which in turn enables cost-effective installation of new controls on diesel engines, making that "black puff of smoke" a thing of the past. Like the power plant rules, these new diesel rules were also undertaken at the Administration's discretion and address diesel fuels and engines as a single system in order to reduce air pollution by more than 90 percent. This approach would have been costly, disruptive, and much less practical if left to the States to accomplish on their own.

In November 2002, the Administration finalized the NonRoad Large Spark Ignition Engine Rule, which is designed enable dramatic diesel engine emission reductions from large non-road spark ignition engines, such as forklifts and airport ground service vehicles. It also included standards for recreational vehicles including all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, off-highway motorcycles, and marine engines, none of which have been regulated before.

In February 2003, the Administration finalized the Large Marine Engine Rule which adopts, also for the first time, national emission standards for this category of diesel engines.

Most consequentially, in June 2004, the Administration finalized the NonRoad Diesel Engine and Fuel Rule. By requiring the virtual elimination of sulfur in diesel fuel (a 99 percent cut), the rule will drastically reduce associated emissions of particulate matter from diesel engines by 95 percent and nitrogen oxide emissions by more than 90 percent. This outcome was the product of an aggressive and remarkable effort by President Bush's EPA to achieve consensus among key

groups, business interests, and interested parties. As a result, the rule was the first major EPA rule in years that did not produce lawsuits that otherwise can delay compliance by 5 to 10 years. In this instance, compliance began essentially on schedule starting in 2007.
In May 2008, the Administration finalized the last in this series of rules, the Locomotive and Marine Engine rule. When fully implemented, the new standards will provide emission reductions of 90 percent for particulate matter and 80 percent for NOx compared to current standards.

Industrial Emissions

The President's commitment to cleaner air was not limited to emissions from power plants and vehicles. Since 2001, the Administration has issued, without much public fanfare or media attention, 49 Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) Standards for more than 80 different types of industrial sources of air toxics, including pulp and paper mills, oil refineries, chemical manufacturers, and iron and steel foundries. The Administration also has issued regulations for 30 categories of smaller sources, such as copper smelters, electric arc furnaces for steelmaking, and chromium electroplating facilities. Together, these standards are projected to reduce annual emissions of air toxics by about 200,000 tons when fully implemented. In addition, EPA has issued Risk and Technology reviews for eight source categories to determine whether the residual risk from the MACT standards warranted additional control of air toxics.

Over the past eight years, the President has successfully carried out some of the most ground-breaking initiatives of any Administration to improve air quality and revitalize our cities. These efforts are improving air quality and public health, generating tangible results, and laying a positive foundation for future improvements to the way we regulate air pollution in America. All of these efforts are the successful results of a larger, more comprehensive strategy to improve the environment and grow our economy.

9

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Jim Connaughton

SUBJECT: Your Ocean Conservation Policy

Under the authority of the Ocean Act of 2000, the President appointed the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy in the fall of 2001 to establish findings and develop recommendations for a coordinated and comprehensive national ocean policy. The Administration strongly supported the work of the Commission, which presented its final report to the President in September 2004. The report contained more than 200 recommendations directed at the Administration, Congress, and the states, including ideas for a new national ocean policy framework, an enhanced science agenda to support decisions about ocean and coastal resources, and the need for stronger ocean education and literacy as a means to better engage the general public, cultivate stewardship, and prepare a new generation of leaders to meet future ocean policy challenges.

U.S. Ocean Action Plan

In December 2004, the President signed Executive Order 13366 establishing a Cabinet-level Committee on Ocean Policy (chaired by the CEQ Chairman) and adopting the Administration's Ocean Action Plan containing 88 specific measures that could be accomplished by the end of his term to make the Nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes cleaner, healthier, and more productive. The Administration is successfully implementing all of these actions, and many others added since then, with the exception of accession to the Law of the Sea Convention.

More Effective Ocean Governance

Executive Order 13366 and the U.S. Ocean Action Plan established a more fully integrated and better coordinated ocean governance structure among the Federal agencies with ocean-related policy decisions, responsibilities and resource management activities. This structure includes the new Cabinet-level Committee on Ocean Policy, as well as a deputies committee and technical sub-committees on ocean science and on resource management, which have consolidated other stand-alone activities such as National Ocean Research Leadership Council and the Coastal America Partnership. In addition, the President created a Cabinet Committee on Marine Transportation (chaired by the Secretary of Transportation) to ensure better coordination of Federal agencies involved with maritime transportation-related responsibilities and activities. The Committee developed a *National Strategy for the Marine Transportation System: A Framework for Action,* that contains 34 priority recommendations for improving the marine transportation system. Each of these recommendations is currently being implemented.

At the same time, the Administration has strongly emphasized the importance of strengthening regional, state, and local governance and participation in decisions about ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resource management. We have been very successful in forging practical, regional initiatives in the Gulf of Mexico, the Great Lakes, New England, and on the West Coast. A regional group on the southeast Atlantic Coast is currently under consideration. To bolster the success of these regional efforts, the Administration has established interagency teams at the regional level to help identify and implement collaborations on research, resource management planning, best practices, and streamlining of shared responsibilities. We are also making significant progress through smaller scale initiatives, partnering with individual states, local government, or groups of local interests.

Stronger Science Through a Ten-Year Ocean Research Priorities Plan

Measures to preserve and protect our ocean resources must be based on sound science. The Administration produced the first coordinated, national strategy to advance an ocean research agenda that is relevant to policy, management, and community needs over the next ten years: "*Charting the Course for Ocean Science in the United States for the Next Decade: An Ocean Research Priorities Plan and Implementation Strategy*." The research plan presents research priorities that focus on the most compelling issues in key areas of interaction between society and the ocean. The document also provides guidance on how the various ocean science-sectors (government, academia, industry, and non-government entities) can be engaged to address the areas of greatest research priority and opportunity. An implementation plan provides direction to ensure that ocean research is successfully addressed within the next ten years. The Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology is monitoring the implementation.

The President requested and obtained substantial increases in the budgets for ocean research, including technical support systems. For example, in August of 2008, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration commissioned the *Okeanos Explorer,* the first Federal ship dedicated solely to exploration and research of the ocean. The *Okeanos Explorer* uses satellite and high-speed Internet-based technology to enable scientists on shore to participate in and direct real-time exploration of our oceans while viewing live images and other ocean data. During this Administration, NOAA has launched four new state of the art fisheries survey vessels designed to study fish quietly without altering their behavior. These vessels meet the National Marine Fisheries Service's specific data collection requirements and the new standards for a low acoustic signature set by the International Council for Exploration of the Seas. Through increased deployment of research buoys throughout the ocean, NOAA is also laying the foundation for the world's first "Integrated Ocean Observing System," a key part of the broader, highly successful U.S.-led international initiative to establish a "Global Earth Observation System of Systems."

Ending Overfishing Through More Innovative and Sustainable Fisheries Management

In January 2007, the President signed the Magnuson-Stevens Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006, which will achieve a number of Administration goals. These include ending overfishing in U.S. waters and expanding the use of innovative, market-based systems for more effective and sustainable fisheries management, such as Dedicated Access Programs and Individual Fishing Quotas, which lead to safer fisheries, more sustainable management of the resource, and increasing yields to the fishing community. Under the leadership of this Administration, six more fisheries have moved to these innovative programs and four more are in development. A new program to collect information from recreational fishermen and will significantly improve scientific research on fisheries management. In addition, the Administration is conducting deep sea coral research to promote greater understanding and protection of deep-sea coral communities.

Driven by the growing global demand for seafood and a $9 billion annual seafood trade deficit, the United States must look at innovative ways to expand domestic aquaculture production. Currently, the United States imports over 80 percent of its seafood and almost half of that is from aquaculture. Recognizing this need, in 2007 the Administration proposed the National Offshore Aquaculture Act to create a regulatory framework that allows for safe and sustainable aquaculture operations in U.S. federal waters.

In October 2007, the President signed an Executive Order that sets a policy to conserve striped bass and red drum fish for the recreational, economic and environmental benefit of present and future generations of Americans. The Executive Order directs that the commercial sale of striped bass and red drum caught in Federal waters be prohibited. Federal agencies will review the status of these fish populations to ensure that the most up-to-date information is available. The President also directed the Federal government to work with state and local officials to find innovative ways to conserve these species.

Substantially Increased Marine Resource Conservation and Protection

The Ocean Action Plan recognizes that wetland and coral reef habitats, with their associated systems of mangroves and sea grasses, are the world's most biologically diverse marine ecosystems. Important assets to local and national economies, they provide fisheries for food, materials for new medicines, and income from tourism and recreation, as well as protect coastal communities from storms.

The U.S. is protecting and restoring vital wetland and marine habitats. In 2004, the President set a goal of restoring, improving, and protecting 3 million acres of interior and coastal wetlands in five years; we have met that goal one year ahead of schedule. And in September 2008, he set a new goal of restoring, improving and protecting at least 4 million additional acres in the coming five years.

The Ocean Action Plan specifically called for protecting the coral reefs and habitat of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. On June 15, 2006, in one of his most heralded acts, the President created the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, which encompasses nearly 140,000 square miles of U.S. waters (105,564 square nautical miles) - an area larger than all of our national parks combined. This Monument, the single largest conservation area under the U.S. flag, is the largest fully protected marine conservation area in the world. The area includes 3,910 square nautical miles (5,178 square miles) of relatively undisturbed coral reef habitat that is home to more than 7,000 species, a quarter of which are found nowhere else on earth. Many of the islands and shallow water environments are important habitats for rare species such as the threatened green sea turtle and the endangered Hawaiian monk seal. Papahānaumokuākea is also of great cultural importance to Native Hawaiians with significant cultural sites found on the islands of Nihoa and Mokumanamana.

In May 2007, the Administration submitted a bill to Congress to reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act, which would add greater protections for coral reefs. The bill explicitly focuses on threats to corals such as climate change, coral disease, and bleaching, as well as making it unlawful to destroy or injure any coral reef. The House recently passed the legislation; it is still pending in the Senate.

The U.S. Ocean Action plan recognizes that the continued health and biodiversity of marine and estuarine systems depends on high-quality habitat. This includes extraordinary efforts to restore America's Everglades, the largest watershed restoration in the world. Although the entire restoration program will require decades of effort and determination, the Administration has already accomplished many goals in partnership with the State of Florida and other constituencies. We have restored important segments of the Kissimmee River and adjacent floodplain wetlands have been restored, returning native plants and animals faster than expected. We have expedited construction to restore a portion of the Picayune Strand project and the Herbert Hoover Dike, and have nearly completed the work on the Modified Waters Project--a project essential to enabling more natural flows of water into the Everglades. This includes construction of a new bridge on the Tamiami Trail, a part of the project that is now out for bid. Invasive exotic plants have been removed from portions of an abandoned farm in Everglades National Park and a healthy wetland prairie and pineland ecosystem has been restored. In conjunction with others we have also established a Research Natural Area - No Take Zone in Dry Tortugas National Park and completed a long awaited joint management strategy with the State of Florida for this area.

The Great Lakes are a national treasure constituting the largest freshwater system in the world. By Executive Order in May of 2004, the President established a Great Lakes Interagency Task Force to address nationally significant environmental and natural resource issues involving the Great Lakes. Through the Task Force, a Great Lakes Regional Collaboration has been established. The actions taken by the States and Provinces to ratify the Compact complement the efforts undertaken by the Regional Collaboration. The President signed the Compact into law on October 3, 2008.

In December of 2006 the President signed the "Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act," establishing Federal programs to identify, reduce, and prevent marine debris and its adverse impacts on the marine environment and navigation safety. Marine debris has a harmful effect on coral reefs and other valuable marine resources. A new marine debris initiative, launched by the First Lady last November, is: 1) increasing public education and awareness; 2) enhancing regional and local partnerships across the nation to clean up marine debris, turning debris into energy, recovering lost fishing gear, and recycling fishing lines; and 3) leading a global effort with international organizations to prevent fishing gear from becoming lost and to develop less harmful fishing gear. Marine debris removal projects now take place all across the country. For example, in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, volunteer divers dive all summer and pull fishing nets from coral reefs. And through DOD's "Innovative Readiness Training Program" we are significantly expanding the opportunity for Navy and Army divers to use marine debris removal projects as invaluable "real world" training exercises—especially in some of the most demanding and dangerous areas. The Administration also supports the annual international cleanup in more than a hundred countries around the world.

In the spirit of cooperative conservation, the Administration is working with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and other partners to conduct research and better protect deep sea coral communities, which can be found as deep as 200 meters. These coral resources include the Oculina Bank, which is a 90-mile strip of reefs just off the coast of Florida. Using Magnuson-Stevens Act authority, NOAA has established a large habitat protection area for the Oculina Corals. The Council has also proposed a series of eight deepwater marine protected areas off the coasts of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina to protect a portion of the long-lived, deepwater snapper grouper species and their habitat from directed fishing pressure. In addition, in areas currently subject to oil and gas leasing in the Gulf of Mexico, the Minerals Management Service has established a series of "no activity zones" to protect against harm to ecologically beneficial hard bottom habitat scattered along the outer continental shelf. All told, during this Administration, we have put two-thirds of Federal waters -- about 2.3 million square nautical miles -- off-limits to harmful bottom-trawling and dredging.

In August 2008, the President asked the Secretaries of the Interior, Commerce, and Defense and the CEQ Chairman to assess three other areas in U.S. waters in the Pacific that might be suitable for recognition, enhanced management and protection. Their recommendations should be available toward the end of the year.

To protect the highly endangered population of North Atlantic right whales, NOAA now requires fishermen to use more whale-friendly gear. Based on a careful study of where Right Whales and ships are most likely to collide, the Administration proposed and the International Maritime Organization approved rerouting the shipping lanes near Boston Harbor. This action reduced the danger to North Atlantic right whales by nearly 60 percent. On October 8, 2008, NOAA issued new regulations which will, for the first time, require large ships to reduce speeds to ten knots in areas where North Atlantic right whales feed and reproduce, as well as along migratory routes in between. The goal of the regulation is to reduce the risk of ship collisions with the whales.

In meeting its responsibilities to protect marine mammals, the Navy, in conjunction with NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, developed a suite of mitigation measures that are applied to its training exercises and operations. The Navy is currently evaluating the environmental impact of sonar training exercises, including the use of mid-frequency active sonar, while it operates in the southern California training area in accordance with a National Defense Exemption under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the exemption the President issued under the Coastal Zone Management Act. Current training operations include 29 specific marine mammal protection measures to minimize potential impacts on marine mammals and their habitat. Litigation over sonar training is ongoing and a Supreme Court ruling involving the southern California training area is expected by the end of this year.

In May 2006, the Department of Commerce listed two species of corals as threatened under the Endangered Species Act; in May 2008, the Department of Interior did the same for the polar bear. They are both now monitored under Federal regulatory guidelines. In September 2007, the United States announced the ratification of the "Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation on the Conservation and Management of the Alaska-Chukotka Polar Bear Population," a bilateral treaty for the long-term conservation of the population of polar bears shared between the two nations

Ocean Education and Literacy

Ocean education and literacy are essential to fostering ocean stewardship, advancing marine science, and developing future leaders in ocean resource conservation and management. One of our early priorities was to convene a Conference on Ocean Literacy in Washington to lay the foundation for a greatly expanded effort on ocean education and awareness. The First Lady has strongly supported ocean education efforts, including by making ocean awareness and conservation a theme of the 2008 Easter Egg Roll.

Coastal America, a partnership among Federal, state and local governments and private alliances to collaboratively improve coastal conditions, also conducts ocean education activities through a network of Coastal Ecosystem Learning Centers at major aquariums in the U.S. to promote lifelong ocean education. The Administration has expanded this network to more than 20 locations, including in Mexico.

This Administration has supported the Smithsonian Institution's effort to modernize and strengthen its role in ocean education, culminating in the completion of the fully renovated Sant Ocean Hall in the National Museum of Natural History. NOAA partnered with the Smithsonian in completing the only exhibition in the country dedicated to a global view of the ocean.

International

This Administration continues to promote the sustainable management of global fisheries resources and has called for an end to destructive fishing practices on the high seas. The U.S. delegation to the 2006 United National General Assembly fisheries resolution negotiations successfully led an effort for an agreement on high sea practices in this area. The U.S. is now playing a leadership role in effort to implement this global commitment.

This Administration has also led the effort to eliminate the practice of shark finning, including through the adoption of shark finning bans in four different international organizations that have combined membership of 67 different contracting or cooperating parties. We have also helped develop and win adoption of language in the 2007 United Nations General Assembly resolution on sustainable fisheries calling for improved shark conservation by the international community.

The Administration has been working at the international level to address the significant problem of Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported (IUU) fishing worldwide. Efforts have included implementing the U.S. Plan of Acton for IUU fishing, developing a binding international agreement on minimum standards for port state measures to discourage and eliminate IUU fishing; developing guidelines for deep sea fishing on the high seas; and developing a global record of all fishing and associated vessels.

The Administration supports the Coral Triangle Initiative, a comprehensive plan addressing two major threats to a biologically diverse marine region in the South Pacific: resource exploitation and climate change effects. The initiative focuses on protecting coral reefs from man-made and natural disturbances; developing sustainable fisheries; and ensuring food security for the region's inhabitants. Indonesia, Timor-Leste, the Philippines, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands participate in the Initiative.

Since 2002, the Administration has urged the U.S. Senate to approve our nation's accession to the Convention of the Law of the Sea as a matter of national security, economic self-interest, and international leadership. Even as we await long overdue action by the Senate, to protect U.S. interests in light of upcoming decisions about an Extended Continental Shelf for certain countries, an interagency task force is coordinating activities to establish the outer limit of the U.S. Extended Continental Shelf under the Convention to preserve any claim to expanding the area over which the U.S. may exercise sovereign rights and exclusive economic jurisdiction.

The Administration is currently preparing a Presidential Directive on "Arctic Region Policy." The directive states that it is the Administration's policy to protect the Arctic environment and conserve its biological resources, and to ensure scientific monitoring and research into local, regional, and global environmental issues. The directive complements the President's efforts under the Ocean Action Plan by recognizing that the U.S. must take all actions necessary to establish the outer limit of the continental shelf, as suggested by the procedures available to countries in the Law of the Sea Convention. In addition, the directive outlines the Nation's priorities for maritime transportation in the Arctic Region, one of which is to protect the marine environment.

OCEAN CONSERVATION (2000-2008)

June 4, 2001

The President visits the Everglades National Park and delivers remarks on Everglades' restoration.

June 15, 2001

The President announces the appointment of sixteen individuals to the U.S. Ocean Commission. Commissioners select Admiral James Watkins as Chairman. Council on Environmental Quality Chairman establishes an interagency task force to support the work of the Commission.

January 9, 2002

Statement: President Bush Takes Action to Help Restore Everglades
The President releases a Statement announcing that Florida and the Federal government agree that the State will reserve water under State laws for Everglades' restoration where the reserved water is used first for restoration before it can be reserved for any other purpose. The Secretary of the Interior will convene the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force.

May 29, 2002

Statement: President's Statement on Preserving Florida's Environment
The President releases a Statement announcing two historic actions in Florida that exemplify personal stewardship and conservation partnerships: the Federal government will buy back the rights for natural gas and oil development in Destin Dome, and in critical parts of the Everglades.

November 26, 2002

Coastal America Principals Establish New Charter
The Coastal Americas Partnership was initiated by President Bush '41. Coastal America is a partnership among Federal, state and local governments and private alliances to protect, preserve, and restore our nation's coastal and marine ecosystems. The group has been an integral player in the implementation of the U. S. Ocean Action Plan.

December 2, 2002

The President signs the North American Wetlands Conservation Reauthorization Act. With his signature, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act is reauthorized for five years, continuing authorization for Federal money to match donations from sportsmen, state wildlife agencies, conservationists, and landowners.

March 15, 2003

A Memo is delivered to the President providing information and status to support the Administration support for ratification of the Law of the Sea Convention. It stresses that staying outside of the Convention is increasingly risky for the United States.

April 22, 2004

The President delivers remarks and announces wetlands initiatives on Earth Day. He announces that the historic loss of wetlands has been halted and commits the government to a new policy in wetland restoration, from no net loss to an overall increase in the quality and quantity of wetlands over 5 years. He also establishes a new goal to restore, improve, and protect at least three million acres of wetlands over five years.

May 18, 2004

The President issues an Executive Order establishing the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force. The Task Force is chaired by the EPA Administrator, and addresses nationally significant environmental and natural resource issues involving the Great Lakes.

ugust 26, 2004

The President issues an Executive Order ordering Cabinet agencies to implement laws relating to the environment and natural resources in a manner that promotes cooperative conservation, with an emphasis on appropriate inclusion of local participation in Federal decision-making.

December 16, 2004

A Memo is delivered to the President on the appropriate response to the Committee on Ocean Policy Report. It suggests that a Cabinet-level Committee on Ocean Policy be established through Executive Order to implement the recommendations.

December 17, 2004

The President issues an Executive Order establishing the Committee on Ocean Policy and released the Administration's Ocean Action Plan. The Administration identified and faced a key challenge in developing management strategies that ensure continued conservation of coastal and marine habitats, while at the same time ensuring that the American public enjoys and benefits from these same resources.

May 4, 2006

A Memo is delivered to the President informing him of efforts by NOAA to establish a new national marine sanctuary for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. It provides background and rationale for the designation, which eventually became the Papahānaumokuākea National Marine Monument under the Antiquities Act.

Also, the Department of Commerce announces the decision to list two species of coral as threatened under the Endangered Species Act

June 2, 2006

Proclamation: National Oceans Week
President Bush recognized the importance of the oceans to our national heritage, economy, and security and reaffirmed the Administration's commitment to protecting them through wise stewardship and sensible management. He said that, through the U. S. Ocean Action Plan, the Administration is building an integrated ocean observing system, promoting ocean education, embarking on deep oceans research, supporting our maritime transportation system, and enhancing our international leadership role in ocean science and policy.

June 7-8, 2006

The Conference on Ocean Literacy, a two-day forum in Washington, DC, brought together key individuals to discuss ocean literacy and education. The event was hosted by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and partners, including CEQ, OSTP, Department of Commerce, Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Navy, National Science Foundation, and NASA.

June 15, 2006

Proclamation: President Bush Establishes Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument
President Bush signs a proclamation to create the largest conservation area in the history of the U. S., and the largest fully protected marine conservation area in the world, what would later be formally named the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument

October 3, 2006

The President issues a Memo to the Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez, to further strengthen the efforts of the United States to protect sustainable fisheries and to safeguard their effective use by calling for an end to destructive fishing practices, such as unregulated bottom trawling on the high seas. The President emphasizes that it remains United States policy to support protection and use of sustainable fisheries as a food source and to meet the needs of commercial and recreational fishing.

ecember 22, 2006

The President signs the Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act (S. 362). The act works to reduce and prevent marine debris and its adverse impacts on the marine environment. The act specifically targets types of fishing gear that are a threat to the marine environment and navigation safety.

January 26, 2007

Administration adopts Ten Year Ocean Research Priorities Plan
The research plan presents research priorities that focus on the most compelling issues in key areas of interaction between society and the ocean. The document also provides guidance on how the various ocean science-sectors (government, academia, industry, and non-government entities) can be engaged to address the areas of greatest research priority and opportunity. An implementation plan provides direction ensure the ocean research are successfully addressed within the next ten years. The Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology is monitoring the implementation.

January 12, 2007

The President signs the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006. President Bush signs legislation that complements Administration priorities of ending overfishing in America; contributes to replenishing America's fish stocks; strengthens enforcement of fishing laws; and implements international agreements on fishery management.

May 15, 2007

Statement: President's Statement on Advancing U. S. Interests in the World's Oceans
The President issues a Statement announcing actions to advance U. S. interests in the world's oceans, urging the Senate to act favorably on U. S. accession to the U. N. Convention of the Law of the Sea and seeking international measures to enhance protection of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

May 31, 2007

Proclamation: National Oceans Month, 2007
The President proclaims June as National Oceans Month to recognize all who are dedicated to making our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes cleaner, healthier, and more productive, including the many Federal agencies that make up the Committee on Ocean Policy.

October 16, 2007

A Memo is delivered to the President on a proposed Executive Order Entitled "Protection of Striped Bass and Red Drum Fish Populations." OMB endorsed the CEQ recommendation that the President approve the Executive Order. The Executive Order would revise existing regulations to preserve two fish species for the recreational, economic, and environmental benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

October 20, 2007

The President issues an Executive Order protecting Striped Bass and Red Drum Fish populations. The President set a policy to conserve striped bass and red drum fish for the recreation, economic, and environmental benefit of present and future generations of Americans. The EO is based on the Administration's policies of cooperative conservation and responsible stewardship. To meet the environmental challenges of the 21st century, the Administration believes Americans must bring together conservationists, sportsmen, local leaders, and Federal, Stat and tribal officials in a spirit of cooperation to protect and preserve our Nation's natural heritage. The President also directed Federal agencies to send additional support to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, to maintain favorable conservation of these and other coastal and marine migratory birds.

September 21, 2007

The United States announces the ratification of a bilateral agreement with Russia for the long-term conservation of the population of polar bears shared between the two nations.

September 24, 2007

A letter signed by a group of former government officials, academics, members of the NGO community, and industry representatives is sent to Senators Harry Reid and Mitch McConnell, urging expeditious action on accession to the Law of the Sea Convention.

September 26, 2007

The Wall Street Journal runs an editorial by former Secretaries of State James A. Baker and George P. Shultz in favor of U.S. accession to the Law of the Sea Convention.

September 27, 2007

The Senator Foreign Relations Committee hosts a hearing on the Law of the Sea Convention. Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte and Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England testify in favor of U.S. accession to the Convention.

November 1, 2007

A Memo is delivered to the President outlining the marine debris initiative to prevent, reduce, and remove marine debris and raise public awareness of the problem. The efforts build on the U.S. Ocean Action Plan to promote responsible use and stewardship of our oceans. The First Lady became aware of the seriousness of the issue on a visit to Midway Island in the Papahanaumokuakea National Marine Monument.

November 2, 2007

Mrs. Bush's Delivers Remarks at a Coastal Ecosystem Learning Center Designation and Marine Debris Initiative Announcement Statement by the First Lady
Mrs. Bush dedicated the J. L. Scott Marine Education Center in Southern Mississippi and announced the Administration's new Marine Debris Initiative. She states that the U.S. will work with international partners and organizations to prevent fishing gear from becoming lost in marine habitats, emphasizing an international cleanup effort. The Administration will also expand public education and ocean literacy through the initiative.

February 4, 2008

The President's Budget for fiscal year 2009 includes funds for construction of the first project under the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program, Picayune Strand. The budget also includes funds to begin construction of a bridge in the Tamiami Trail, which is the last piece of the Modified Waters Deliveries to the Everglades National Park.

March 24, 2008

The Annual White House Easter Egg Roll is held on the South Lawn of the White House. The chosen educational theme is "Ocean Conservation," and includes marine life painting with the artist Wyland.

April 22, 2008

On Earth Day 2008, CEQ announces that the President's Earth Day 2004 goal to restore three million acres of wetlands in five years was met one year ahead of schedule, with 3.6 million acres protected, restored, and improved.

May 14, 2008

The Department of Interior announces the decision to list the polar bear as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

June 2, 2008

Proclamation: National Oceans Month, 2008
The President designates National Oceans Month to reaffirm the Administration's commitment to protect and wisely use these precious waters and the habitat beneath them. The month is an opportunity to show our gratitude toward all those who work to protect the oceans, to learn more about the vital role oceans play in the life of our country, and to discover ways we can conserve their many natural treasures.

June 9, 2008

A Memo is delivered to the President providing short descriptions of five areas that are of ecological, historical, and scientific interest as possible marine conservation areas. It stresses that each area presented different circumstances that would be addressed in individually tailored monument designations. Subsequently, two areas, Atlantic Coast deep sea corals, and habitats along the Rim of the Gulf of Mexico, were dropped from consideration.

June 24, 2008

Governor Christ of Florida announces the intent to acquire the assets of United States Sugar Corporation, which includes as much as 187,000 acres that is hoped to eventually provide the missing link for flow of water between Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades National Park. CEQ on behalf of the Administration strongly endorses this bold move.

August 25, 2008

Memorandum: Potential Marine Conservation Management Areas
President Bush issues a Memorandum asking the Secretaries of Defense, the Interior, and Commerce and the Chairman of the Council of Environmental Quality to conduct an assessment of three areas in the Pacific. He asks for advice on the advisability of providing additional recognition, protection or improved conservation and management for objects of historic or scientific interest in these areas.

September 26, 2008

The President celebrates the opening of the Sant Ocean Hall at the Smithsonian Institutions' National Museum of Natural History and delivers remarks on the U.S. Ocean Action Plan. The President also announces a new goal to protect an additional four million acres of wetlands in the next five years.

October 3, 2008

The President signs the "Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact," which provides approval for an interstate compact to protect the water resources of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin.

October 8, 2008

NOAA issues new regulations which will, for the first time, require large ships to reduce speeds to ten knots in areas where North Atlantic right whales feed and reproduce, as well as along migratory routes in between. The goal of the regulation is to reduce the risk of ship collisions with the whales.