

**Chairman Moran's prepared remarks for opening statement
U. S. Geological Survey hearing, March 10, 2010**

This is the first budget hearing for the new director, Dr. Marcia McNutt. She is a highly esteemed scientist, and the first woman director in the 131 year history of the USGS.

The U.S. Geological Survey is the nation's leading natural science agency. The USGS conducts fundamental and applied scientific research and monitoring in a wide array of fields.

Besides its famous geology expertise, the USGS also has major responsibilities for:

- The National Map,
- The National Streamflow Information System,
- Water quality and quantity investigations,
- Onshore fossil energy and mineral resource inventories
- Wildlife, fish, and plant science and conservation,
- And many other things.

This bureau has a great history of accomplishment, going back to the land classification work of John Wesley Powell in 1878, the year before the Survey was established by Congress in an Appropriations Act.

We need an active, engaged and competent assembly of scientists to ensure that the federal land management agencies and the United States make responsible policy decisions as stewards of our public lands and waters.

The work of USGS is critical as the nation grows, and as we now confront the effects of climate change.

As John Muir wrote: "*Nature is ever at work building and pulling down, creating and destroying, keeping everything whirling and flowing, allowing no rest but in rhythmical motion, chasing everything in endless song out of one beautiful form into another.*"

Let me offer a couple of brief comments on this budget request.

This is a strong request, providing \$1.1 billion, a \$23.6 million increase from enacted. There are several targeted reductions, and all \$13.5 million in fixed costs must be absorbed. Most research efforts are maintained slightly below the enacted levels.

There are quite a few decreases in the budget request, which I will not get into right now, but noteworthy increases include:

an \$11 million increase for Climate change science, including an \$8 million increase for the National Global Warming and Wildlife Science Center. Something I know interests Mr. Dicks,

a \$9 million increase for the WaterSMART Initiative to develop a sustainable water strategy. However, I note that other water resources science activities are reduced \$3.5 million.

an increase of \$3.3 million for Natural hazards research on earthquakes and volcanoes, and

an increase of \$8 million for program support and continued development of the next LANDSAT satellite ground system for remote sensing.

The request includes a small funding increase for ecosystem science on the Chesapeake Bay in fulfillment of the executive order.

I also note that the USGS also receives funds through the EPA to conduct important scientific investigations as part of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Before we begin, let me recognize our distinguished Ranking Member Mr. Simpson for any comments he may wish to make.