



# GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES

## Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD)

FY 2024 Budget Request At A Glance	
FY 2023 Enacted:	\$130.2 million (597 positions; 416 attorneys)
Current Services Adjustments:	+\$23.9 million
Program Changes:	+\$2.4 million
FY 2024 Budget Request:	\$156.5 million (610 positions; 423 attorneys)
Change From FY 2023 Enacted:	+\$26.3 million (+20.2%) (+13 positions; +7 attorneys)

**Mission:**

The Environment and Natural Resources Division's (ENRD) mission is to enforce civil and criminal environmental laws and programs protecting the public and environment of the United States and to defend suits challenging environmental programs and activities. The ENRD oversees all Federal environmental and natural resources litigation arising under more than 150 Federal statutes. These statutes include the Clean Air Act; Clean Water Act; Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (Superfund law); Endangered Species Act; National Environmental Policy Act; and many others. The Division's work entails bringing civil and criminal enforcement actions to stop polluters and recover clean-up costs, defending Federal agencies in their administration of federal programs including management of Federal lands and other natural resources, defending Federal regulatory agencies that issue environmental regulations, resolving disputes related to Tribes and their lands, and acquiring real property by eminent domain for congressionally authorized purposes.

**Resources:**

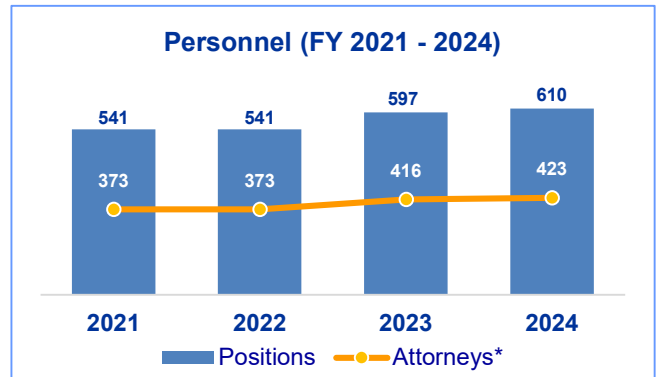
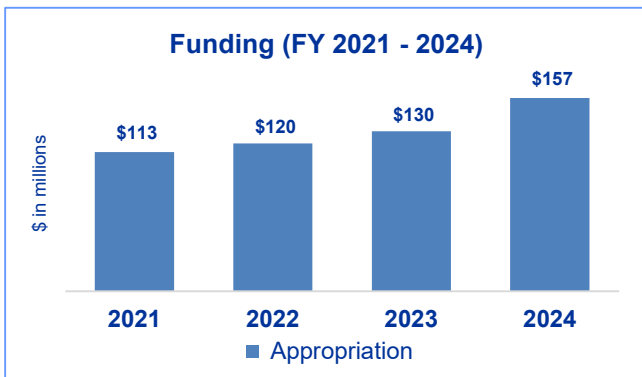
The FY 2024 budget request for the ENRD totals \$156.5 million, which is a 20.2 percent increase over the FY 2023 Enacted.

**Organization:**

The ENRD is headed by an Assistant Attorney General (AAG), who is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The AAG is assisted by five Deputy Assistant Attorneys General. The AAG oversees a Division that is organized into several practice areas dedicated to the enforcement of the nation's civil and criminal environmental laws and programs as well as the defense of the United States in matters concerning stewardship of the nation's natural resources and public lands. With several small field locations across the United States, the Division is "the nation's environmental lawyer," and the largest environmental law firm in the country.

**Personnel:**

The ENRD's direct authorized positions for FY 2024 total 610 positions, including an increase of 13 positions over the FY 2023 Enacted of 597 direct authorized positions.



## FY 2024 Strategy:

The ENRD enforces civil and criminal environmental laws and programs protecting the public and environment of the United States and defends suits challenging environmental and natural resources programs and activities. The ENRD represents many Federal agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Defense, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Homeland Security.

As the Nation's chief environmental litigator, the ENRD strives to obtain full compliance with environmental and conservation statutes. To this end, the ENRD seeks to redress past violations that have harmed the environment, establish credible deterrence against future violations, recoup Federal funds spent to abate environmental contamination, and obtain funds to restore or replace natural resources damaged through oil spills or the release of other hazardous substances. The Division ensures illegal emissions are eliminated, hazardous waste is cleaned up, and drinking water is safe. The ENRD's actions, in conjunction with the work of its client agencies, enhance the quality of the environment in the United States and the health and safety of its citizens.

The ENRD is also charged with defending agency environmental and climate regulations and resource management plans in district courts and courts of appeal throughout the country. The Division is currently defending a wide variety of cases that have substantial climate implications, and this docket is expected to grow significantly in FY 2024 and future fiscal years.

In FY 2024, the Division will continue to pursue legal action to enforce Federal pollution abatement laws and obtain compliance with environmental protection and conservation statutes. In all matters concerning protection, use, and development of the Nation's natural resources and public lands, the ENRD will defend suits challenging the foregoing laws and fulfill the Federal Government's responsibility to litigate on behalf of Tribes and individual Indians. The ENRD will continue to protect the Federal fisc; reduce harmful discharges into the air, water, and land; enable clean-up of contaminated waste sites; and ensure proper disposal of solid and hazardous waste.

Further, the Division will continue to play a significant role in the implementation of Executive Order 13990, *Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis*, which was issued January 20, 2021. The Administration's policy implicates the core of the ENRD's mission; and the ENRD will be chiefly responsible for implementing the policy through litigation, community outreach, and counseling functions in FY 2024. Executive Order 14008, *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*, issued on January 27, 2021, will also guide the ENRD's work in FY 2024. It establishes a "whole-of-government" approach to addressing the climate crisis and formalizes the government's commitment to Environmental Justice.

## FY 2024 Program Changes:

**Animal Welfare Enforcement:** \$1.6 million and 5 positions (3 attorneys)

The ENRD requires personnel, expert consultants, and litigation support to improve Federal efforts to enforce Federal animal cruelty laws. This enhancement will advance public safety, hold those who harm vulnerable animals accountable, and help ensure the humane treatment of abused dogs and other animals. Violations of Federal animal welfare statutes are serious matters which often intersect with other law enforcement priorities. Some animal welfare offenses, such as dogfighting, may be committed by highly organized interstate criminal enterprises which attract an array of other illegal activities, including drug trafficking, gun running and gang violence, all of which threaten public safety. To meet an increasing workload, additional attorneys and support staff are required. There are no current services for this initiative.

**Timber and Wildlife Trafficking Initiative:** \$788,000 and 8 positions (4 attorneys)

This request funds required personnel, critical expert consultant support, and essential logistical and litigation support to advance timber and wildlife trafficking investigations and prosecutions. This enhancement will also increase the ENRD's ability to support U.S. commitments to combat wildlife trafficking, illegal logging, and deforestation globally, and support training and enforcement capacity building efforts. The Department has taken a leadership role in the high-profile multinational effort to combat timber and wildlife trafficking and related transnational organized crime. Both timber and wildlife trafficking are serious multi-billion-dollar transnational crimes that threaten security, economic prosperity, and the rule of law, fuel corruption, and harm conservation efforts and human health. There are no current services for this initiative.

**Environment & Natural Resources Division**  
(Dollars in Thousands)

	Environment & Natural Resources Division		
	Pos	FTE	Amount
<b>2022 Appropriation</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>119,938</b>
<b>2023 Enacted</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>130,204</b>
<b>2024 Request</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>156,501</b>
<b>Change 2024 from 2023 Enacted</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>26,297</b>
<b>Technical Adjustments</b>			
<b>Total Technical Adjustments</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Base Adjustments</b>			
Pay & Benefits	0	0	12,364
Other Adjustments	[35]	35	11,562
<b>Total Base Adjustments</b>	<b>[35]</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>23,926</b>
<b>2024 Current Services</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>154,130</b>
<b>Program Changes</b>			
<b>Increases:</b>			
Timber and Wildlife Trafficking Initiative	8	4	788
Animal Welfare Enforcement	5	3	1,583
<b>Subtotal, Program Increases</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2,371</b>
<b>Decreases:</b>			
<b>Subtotal, Program Decreases</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Program Changes</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2,371</b>
<b>2024 Request</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>156,501</b>

**Environment & Natural Resources Division**  
(Dollars in Thousands)

Comparison by activity and program	2023 Enacted			2024 Current Services		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Environment and Natural Resources	597	518	130,204	632	553	154,130
<b>Total</b>	597	518	130,204	632	553	154,130
Reimbursable FTE		41			41	
<b>Total Direct and Reimbursable</b>	597	559	130,204	632	594	154,130
<i>Sub-Allotments and Direct Collections (FYI)</i>		57			22	
<b>FTE Grand Total</b>		616			616	

Comparison by activity and program	2024 Total Program Changes			2024 Request		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Environment and Natural Resources	13	7	2,371	645	560	156,501
<b>Total</b>	13	7	2,371	645	560	156,501
Reimbursable FTE	0	0	0	0	41	0
<b>Total Direct and Reimbursable</b>	13	7	2,371	645	601	156,501
<i>Sub-Allotments and Direct Collections (FYI)</i>		0			22	
<b>FTE Grand Total</b>		7			623	