



GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES

Environment & Natural Resources Division (ENRD)

FY 2025 Budget Request At A Glance	
FY 2024 Continuing Resolution:	\$130.2 million (553 positions; 396 attorneys)
Current Services Adjustments:	+\$7.1 million
Program Changes:	+\$0
FY 2025 Budget Request:	\$137.3 million (553 positions; 396 attorneys)
Change From FY 2024 Continuing Resolution:	+\$7.1 million (+5.5%)

Mission:

The Environment and Natural Resources Division's (ENRD) mission is to enforce civil and criminal environmental laws and programs that protect the public and environment of the United States and to defend suits that challenge Federal 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 Indian Tribes and their lands, defending cases that safeguard wildlife and animal welfare, and acquiring real property by eminent domain for congressionally authorized purposes.

Resources:

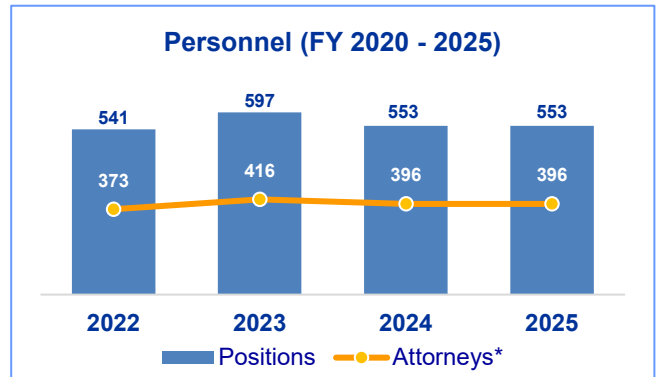
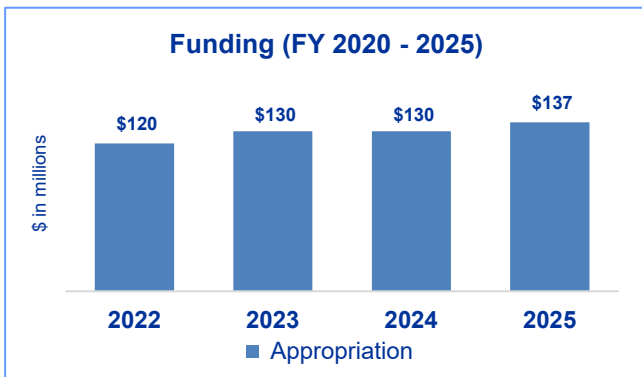
The FY 2025 budget request for the ENRD totals \$137.3 million, which is a 5.5 percent increase over the FY 2024 Continuing Resolution.

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 2025 total 553 positions and are the same as FY 2024 Continuing Resolution.



FY 2025 Strategy:

The ENRD enforces civil and criminal environmental laws and programs that protect the public and environment of the United States and defends suits that challenge environmental and natural resources programs and activities.

In FY 2025, the Division will continue to pursue legal action to enforce Federal pollution abatement laws and obtain compliance with environmental protection and conservation statutes. 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 other hazardous releases. 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 represents 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.

The ENRD is 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 2025 and future fiscal years. In addition to defending agency decisions, the ENRD also defends Federal agencies against monetary and other claims, such as inverse condemnation claims, where millions, and sometimes billions, of dollars may be at stake.

The Division will continue to play a significant role in the implementation of Executive Order (EO) 13990, "Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis," issued January 20, 2021. The Administration's policy is at 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 2025. EO 14008, "Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad," issued on January 27, 2021, will also guide the ENRD's work in FY 2025. That EO establishes a "whole-of-government" approach to addressing the climate crisis and formalizes the government's commitment to Environmental Justice. The ENRD is continuing to support EO 14096, Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All, signed April 21, 2023. Prior to the issuance of EO 14096, the Department issued a [Comprehensive Environmental Justice Enforcement Strategy](#) ("CEJES") outlining four guiding principles for the Department's enforcement work. The Department's Office of Environmental Justice is located within the ENRD.

FY 2025 Program Changes:

The budget proposal includes funds for current services for the ENRD. No program changes are requested.

Environment & Natural Resources Division
(Dollars in Thousands)

	Environment & Natural Resources Division		
	Pos	FTE	Amount
2023 Appropriation	597	469	130,204
2024 Continuing Resolution	597	518	130,204
FY 2024 Annualized Continuing Resolution	-44	0	0
2024 Continuing Resolution	553	518	130,204
2025 Request	553	518	137,302
Change 2025 from 2024 Continuing Resolution	0	0	7,098
Technical Adjustments			
Additional Amount for 2024 Pay Raise	0	0	2,208
Total Technical Adjustments	0	0	2,208
Base Adjustments			
Pay & Benefits	0	0	3,614
Domestic Rent & Facilities	0	0	1,276
Total Base Adjustments	0	0	4,890
2025 Current Services	553	518	137,302
Program Changes			
Increases:			
Subtotal, Program Increases	0	0	0
Decreases:			
Subtotal, Program Decreases	0	0	0
Total Program Changes	0	0	0
2025 Request	553	518	137,302

Environment & Natural Resources Division
(Dollars in Thousands)

Comparison by activity and program	2024 Continuing Resolution			2025 Current Services		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Environment and Natural Resources	553	518	130,204	553	518	137,302
Total	553	518	130,204	553	518	137,302
Reimbursable FTE		41			41	
Total Direct and Reimbursable	553	559	130,204	553	559	137,302
<i>Sub-Allotments and Direct Collections (FYI)</i>		57			57	
FTE Grand Total		616			616	

Comparison by activity and program	2025 Total Program Changes			2025 Request		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Environment and Natural Resources	0	0	0	553	518	137,302
Total	0	0	0	553	518	137,302
Reimbursable FTE	0	0	0	0	41	0
Total Direct and Reimbursable	0	0	0	553	559	137,302
<i>Sub-Allotments and Direct Collections (FYI)</i>		0			57	
FTE Grand Total		0			616	