



Natural Resource Damage Assessment & Restoration Program



Ronald McCormick, Ph.D.
BLM - Washington DC

- The mission of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) Program is to restore natural resources injured as a result of oil spills or hazardous substance releases into the environment. In partnership with other affected State, Tribal, and Federal trustee agencies, damage assessments provide the basis for determining the restoration needs that address the public's loss and use of these resources.

DOI Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration

Who Are the Natural Resource Trustees?



❖ Federal Resource & Land Management Agencies

- Department of the Interior
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Defense
- Department of Energy

❖ Federally Recognized Tribes

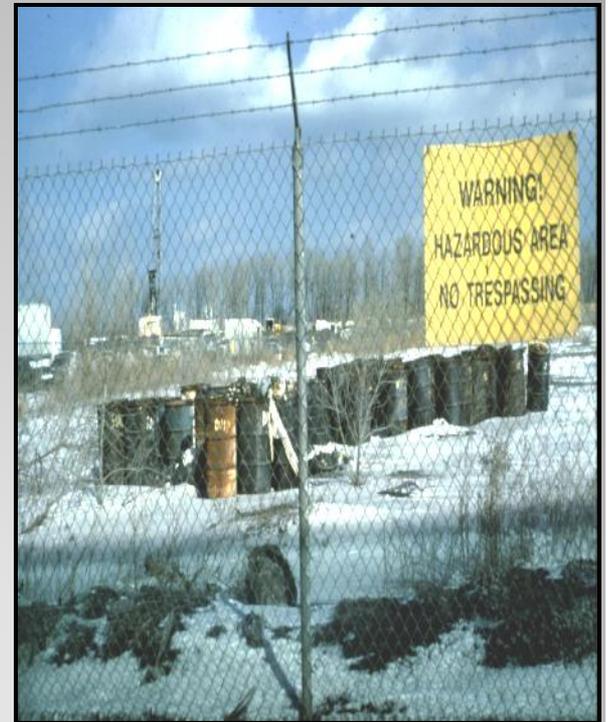
- ❖ State Governments – Governor's delegate state agencies or local entities to act as trustees

- "Injury" means injury, destruction, or loss
- "Injury" is different from ecological risk

What is Natural Resource Injury?

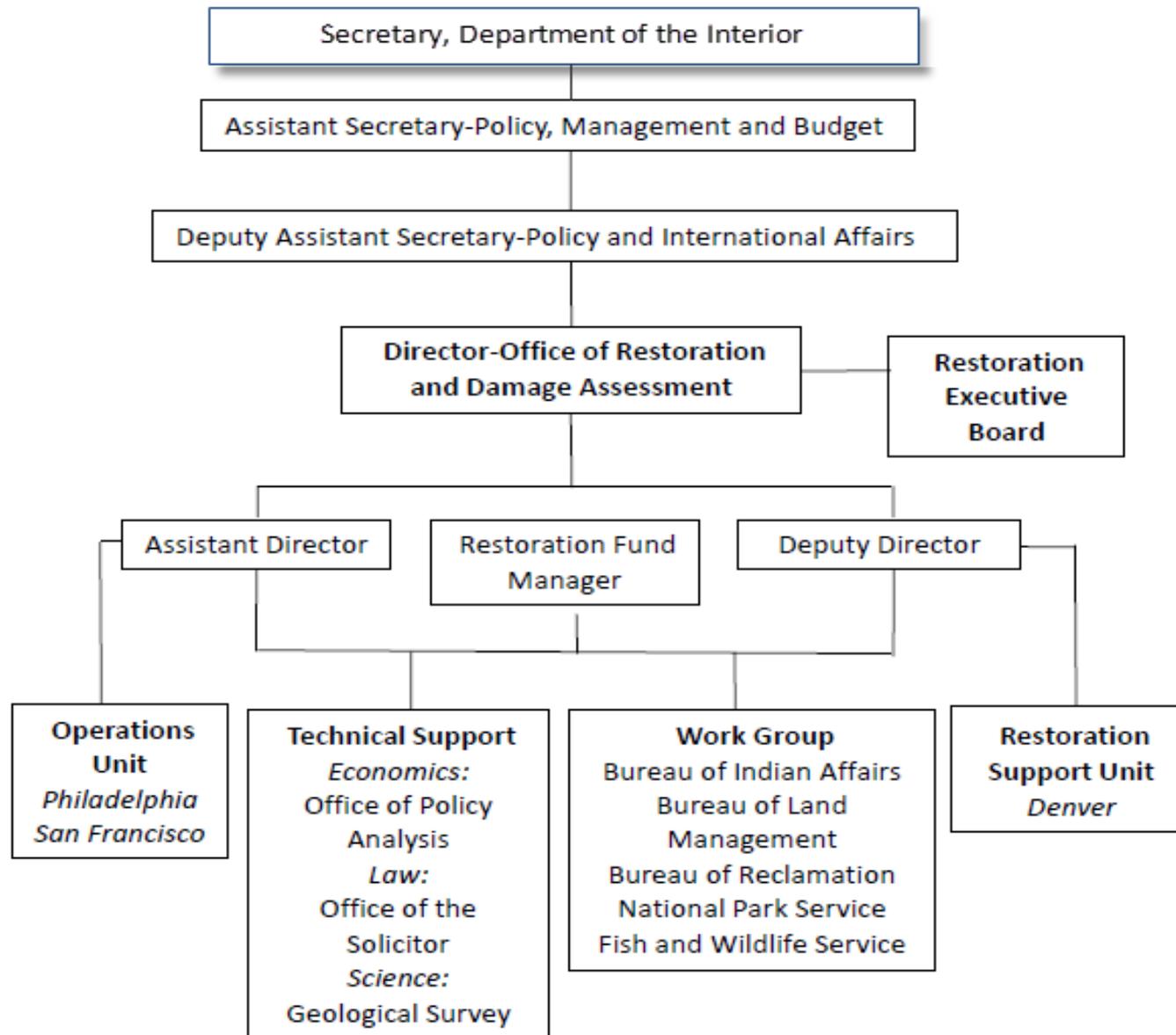
Authorizes Trustees to:

1. Assess Resource Injury and Service loss from Hazardous Substances (DOI rule) or Oil (NOAA rule),
2. Recover \$\$ from polluters to Restore resources & replace services
3. Conduct restoration according to NEPA-compliant plans

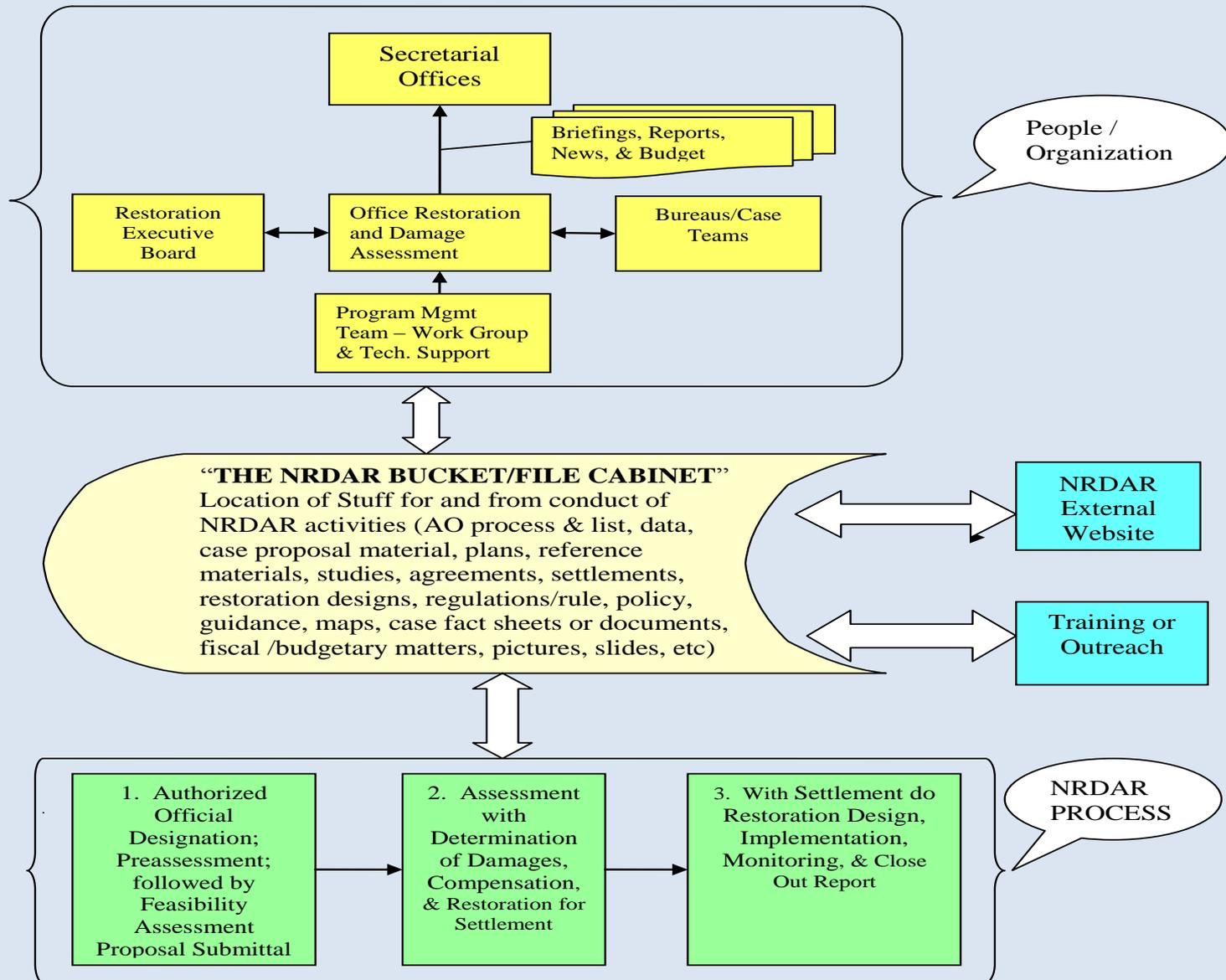


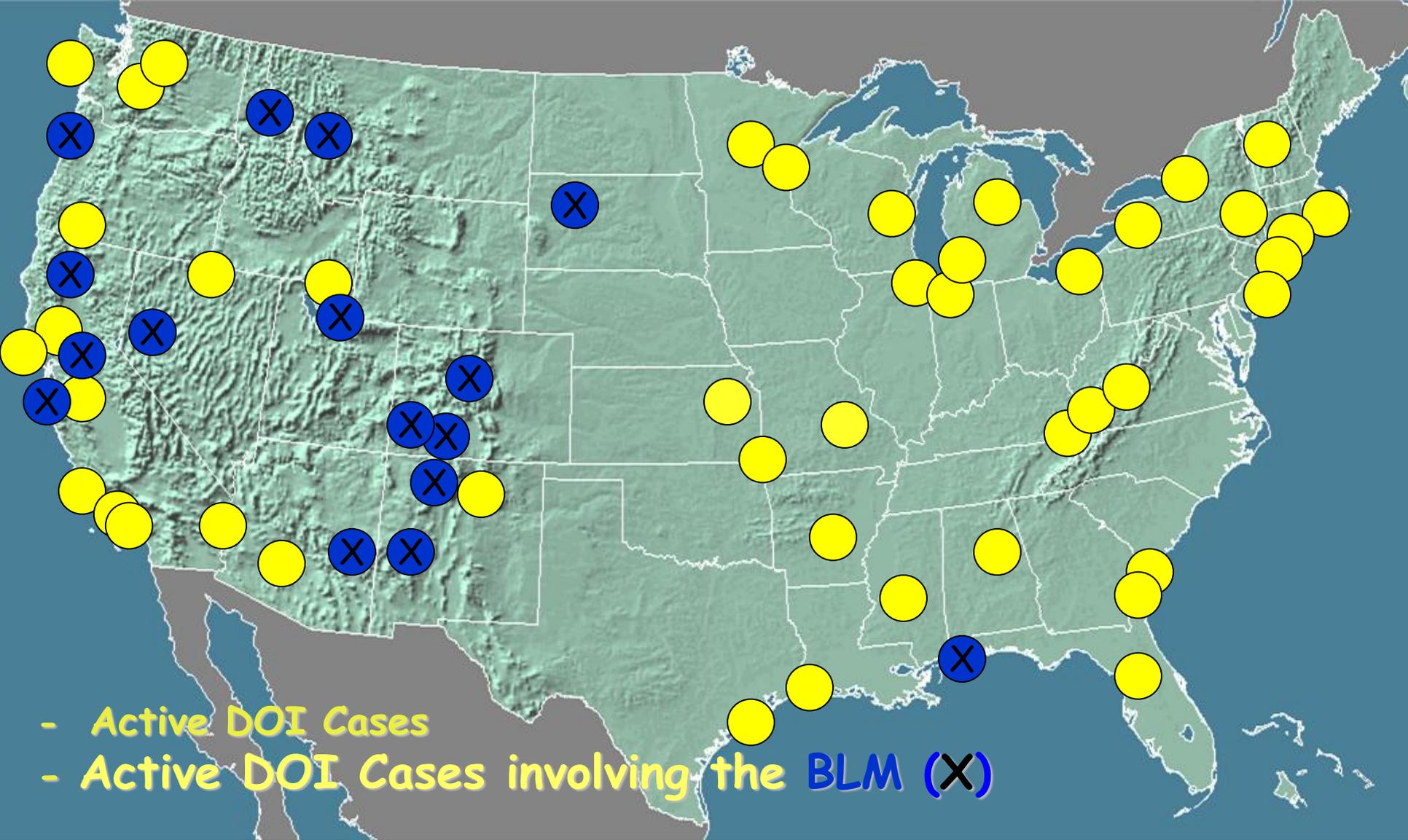
What the NRDAR Program Authorizes

Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program Organization



DOI Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Process and Information Flow



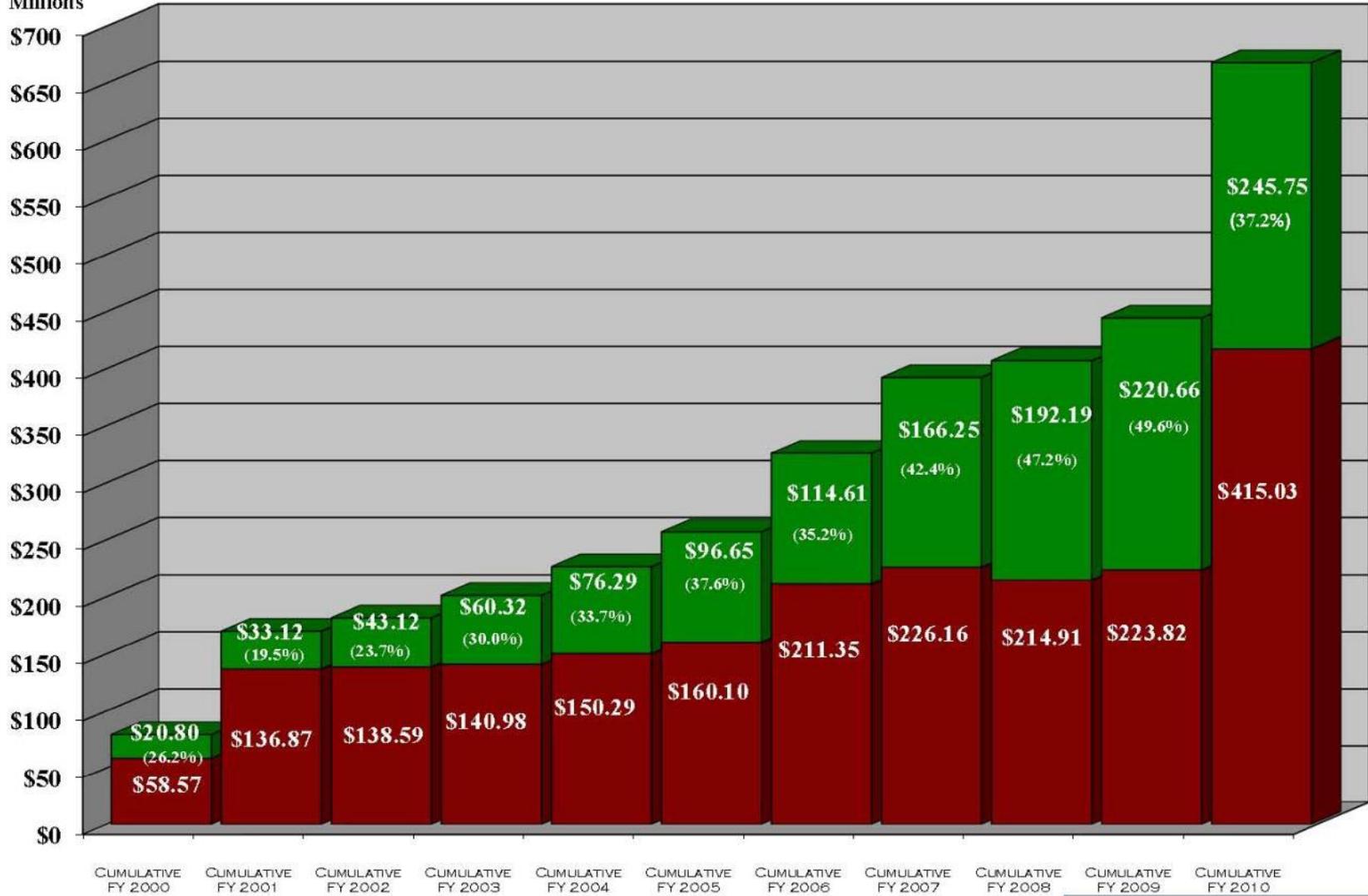


DOI NRDAR Cases

DOI Restoration Fund

Status of Restoration Settlement Funds (excludes Exxon Valdez funds)

Dollars in Millions



■ Restoration Funds Unallocated ■ Restoration Funds Allocated

* NOTE: FY 2010 Year-to-Date Unallocated Funds includes \$180.1 M from ASARCO bankruptcy received Dec. 2009. Without this large increase, 2010 YTD unallocated balance would be \$234.9M.

Funds Disbursed For Restoration

- 1992 - 2000 \$21 million on-the-ground
- 2001 - 2005 \$76 million on-the-ground
- 2006 - 2009 \$124 million on-the-ground
- 2010 \$30 million on-the-ground

Focus on Restoration

- **2010**
 - 68,834 Acres of habitat
 - 377 Stream/shoreline miles
- **2009**
 - 41,183 Acres of habitat
 - 186 Stream/shoreline miles
- **2008**
 - 24,914 Acres of habitat
 - 391 Stream/shoreline miles
- **2007**
 - 15,462 Acres of habitat
 - 171 Stream/shoreline miles
- **2006**
 - 13,403 Acres of habitat
 - 42 Stream/shoreline miles

Recent Restoration Results

- Whitewood Creek, SD (mine, toxic metals):
 - Land exchange - ~\$330,000; disposed of 3000 ac ; acquired 1500 ac
- + New Carissa oil spill, Coos Bay, OR :
 - Snowy Plover nesting; Marbled Murrelet Habitat - > \$ 25 Million
- Iron Mountain, Redding, CA (mine, metals, AMD):
 - Replaced lost recreation opportunity - \$870,000 in trail construction
- Summitville, Alamosa River, CO (mine metals): **
 - Restoration of wildlife habitat, recreation opportunity - share ~\$5 M

NRDAR Restoration - BLM Examples

- Coeur d'Alene, ID (mine metals):
 - Mining activity sites cleaned up, restored - share \$67M +
- Clark Fork River, MT (mine metals):
 - Riparian Habitat Restoration - future invasive weed control (\$250 K)
- + Upper Arkansas River, CO (mine, metals)
 - Mine cleanup, river, riparian restoration; share ~ \$20 M **
- + Molycorp Questa, NM (mine, metals)
 - Acquisition > 100 ac Ranch property: habitat
- + Standard Metals Sites, CO & AZ (mines, metals) **
 - Acquisition ~ 820 ac alpine habitat (BLM/FS): ~ \$ 1.5 M

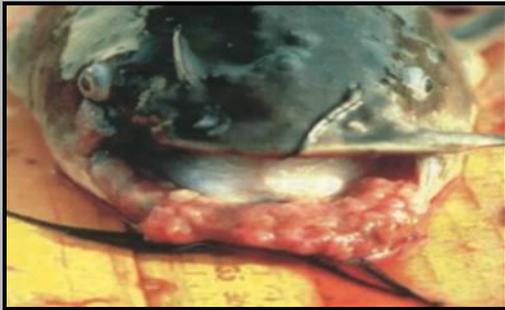
NRDAR Restoration - BLM Examples



**Potential
Injuries/Losses:**

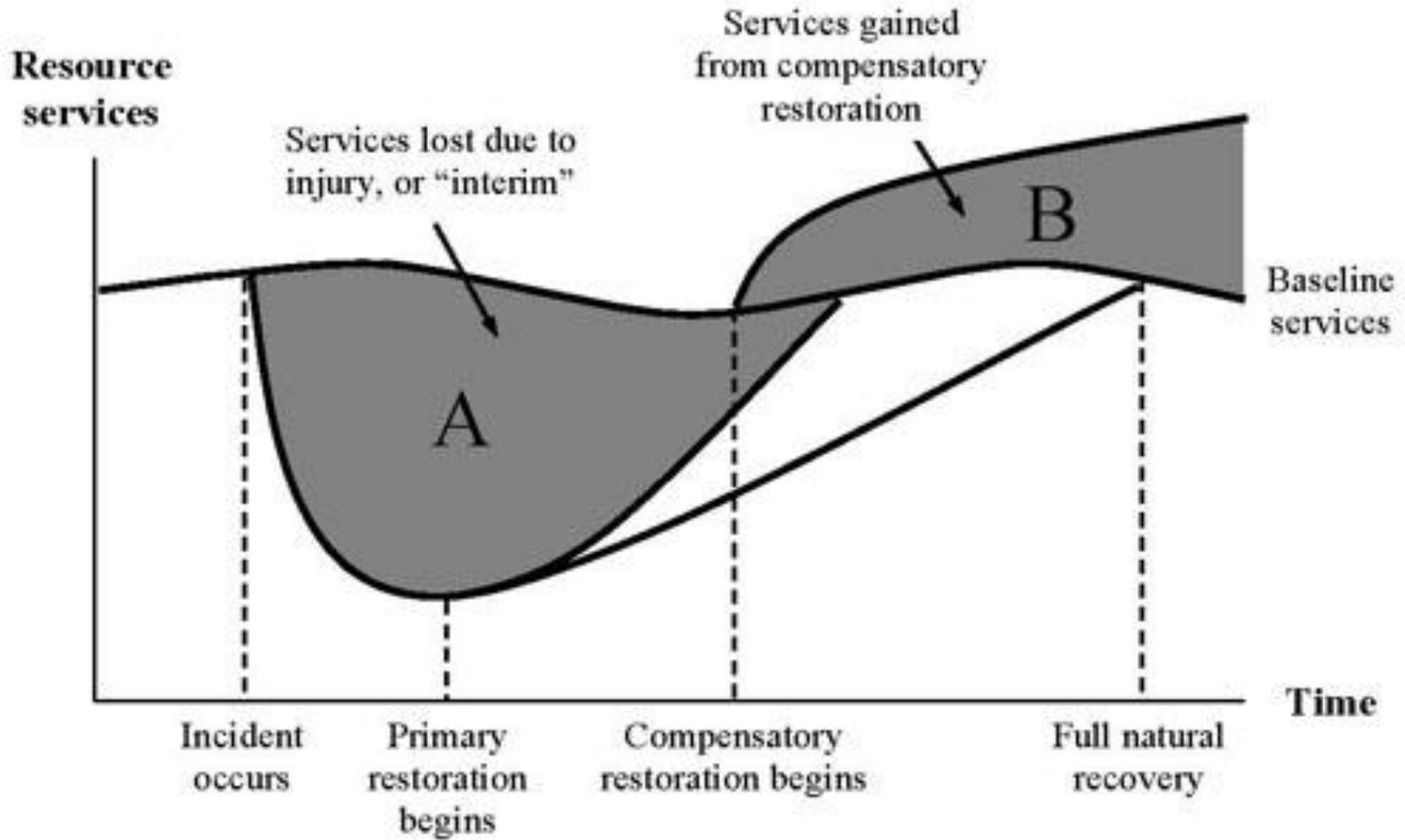
- Recreation access
- Habitat
- Surface water
- Soils
- Alpine wildlife forage

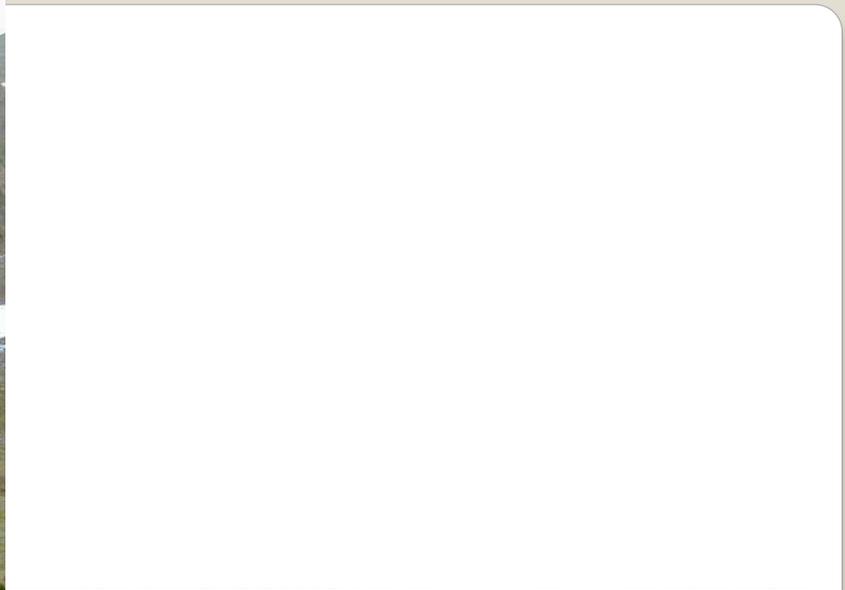
Alpine Aquatic and Terrestrial Environment
[Grand Mogul Mine in SW Colorado]

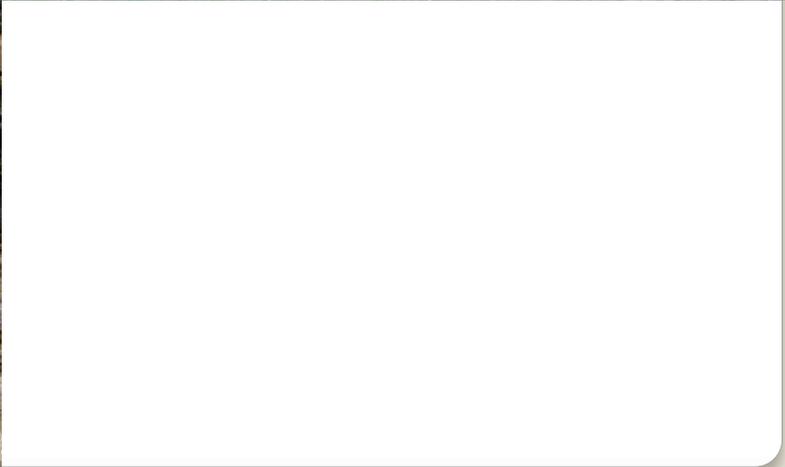


- ❖ Poisoning of water, soils, and air
- ❖ Poisoning or impairment of vegetation
- ❖ Death or disease in fish and wildlife
- ❖ Destruction or reduction of habitat function
- ❖ Ecological function loss (wetlands, food chain)
- ❖ Land use loss (recreation, agric., minerals access)

Injuries to Resources and Services







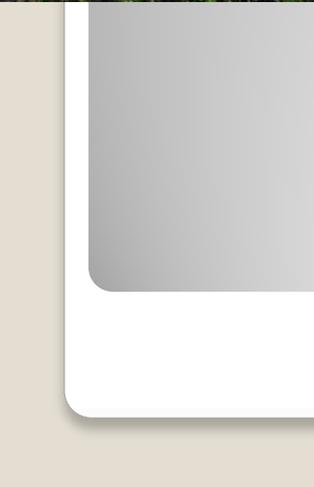
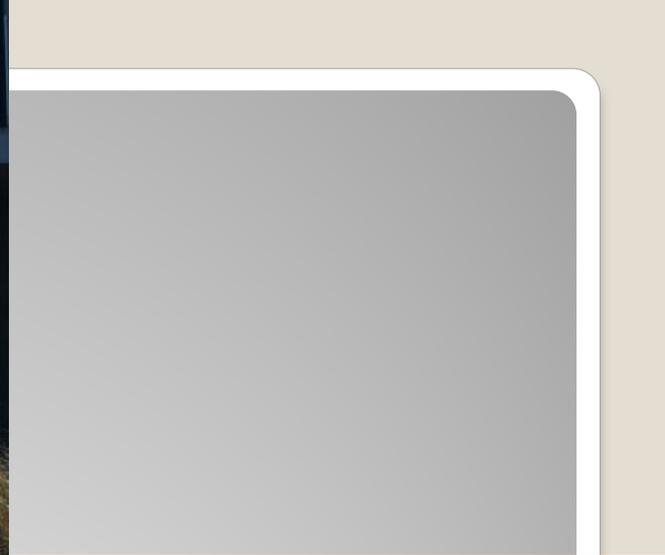
**CANYON CREEK RESPONSE
ACTION**
• 1995/1996 •
TAILINGS REMOVAL
FLOODPLAIN STABILIZATION
SILVER VALLEY NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEES





Deepwater Horizon - April 20, 2010





- EXTERNAL: brought to attention by the DOI, other bureaus, States, Tribes
- INTERNAL:
 - From BLM hazmat/AML site lists (existing)
 - Site discovery (new)
 - by Hazmat/AML staff
 - by Natural Resources staff

Sources of NRDAR Cases in the BLM

NRDAR is Restoration

<http://restoration.doi.gov/>

<https://portal.doi.net/OS/PMB/NRDAR/default.asp>

x

