**Summary of Agency Budget Priorities for FY2013**

FishNet, an informal group of professional societies and organization, together with representatives of Federal agencies, held its annual budget briefing recently. Representatives from U.S. Geological Survey, NOAA Fisheries, Fish & Wildlife Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service presented their agencies’ FY2013 budgets for fisheries programs. The agency officials noted the tight budgetary times and most did not expect to receive more funding than was enacted in FY2012. Here are the highlights from the presentations:

**U.S. Geological Survey 2013 President’s Request: 1,162,492 ($000)**

* Increases for ecosystem priorities: CA Bay Delta, Chesapeake Bay, Columbia River, Everglades, Puget Sound, Asian Carp Control, Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement & Sustaining Ecosystem Capitol
* Increases ecosystem mission areas: Brown Tree Snakes, White Nose Syndrome, Coral Reefs, WaterSMART & Hydrological Fracturing

**NOAA Fisheries 2013 President’s Request: $880.3M**

* Expand annual stock assessments
* Increase support for observing and monitoring fisheries
* Increase support for fisheries oceanography

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 2013 President’s Request: $1,247,044,000 (+$20,867,000)**

* $131,607,000 for Fisheries Program Budget
* $43,189,000 for National Fish Hatchery Operations
* $17,997,000 for Maintenance & Equipment
* $55,072,000 for Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office
* $9,424,000 for Aquatic Invasive Species

**U. S. Forest Service 2013 President’s Request: $,623,591**

* $0 for Wildlife & Fisheries Habitat Management ($40,036 enacted in 2012)
* $0 for Vegetation & Watershed Management ($184,046 enacted in 2012)
* USFS Fisheries biologists identified project opportunities totaling more than $80 million in FY 2013 – more than 2.5 times the estimated budget available for Fisheries
* Fish passage: federal agency coordination to develop consistent design standards and programmatic permitting
* Continue to provide outstanding and unique recreational fishing opportunities and improve related habitat
* Aquatic Invasive Species: prevent, detect, rapidly respond, control/contain, monitor and educate in collaboration with federal, state, municipal and NGO partners

**Bureau of Land Management 2013 President’s Request: $1.098B**

* $87.4M for Wildlife/Fisheries T/E Management ($71.9M enacted in 2012)
* Continued coordination with NFHAP Partnerships, NFWF, Aquatic Invasive Species, AFS, Trout Unlimited & Challenge Cost share

**National Park Service 2013 President’s Request: $2,250,050**

* Ocean & Coastal Resource Stewardship: $1.5 M
* Removal of Elwha Dam: $3.481M
* Fisheries Management Program will focus on Watershed High Priority Projects (Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Buffalo National River, St. Croix National Scenic River, Kaloko-Honokohau National Historic Park & St. Croix National Scenic River)
* Fisheries Management Program will also focus on Aquatic Invasive Species in Parks (Quagga Mussels in Great Lakes, Lionfish in Southeast and Caribbean, VHS in Lake Superior and Asian Carp in Great Lakes Parks, Mississippi, St. Croix NSR & Missouri NRR)