



The Ryan Budget- An Attack on Clean Air, Clean Water and America's Treasured Landscapes

The majority of Americans favor clean air and water, for both public health reasons and because air and water qualities have great impact on the cherished land and seascapes that all we all hold dear. Yet despite this shared value, investments in programs concerned with environmental protection and enhancement; recreation and wildlife areas; and the development and management of the nation's land, water, and mineral resources, (Budget Function 300) account for only about 1 percent of the total federal budget.

These programs deliver huge benefits: by enforcing air pollution standards, improving water infrastructure to keep our lakes and rivers clean and drinking water safe, and managing our national parks and other public lands. Clean water, clean air, healthy rivers, lakes and shorelines teeming with wildlife — these are benefits that every American has a right to enjoy, and that the U.S. Congress has a responsibility to protect. Yet not all members of Congress agree, as the Ryan 2013 Budget Resolution proposes disproportionate cuts to initiatives that desperately need continued funding to protect American's right to clean air and water.

Following are some points on the Ryan Budget's assault on clean air and water and the wild lands that are part of the soul of America:

The Ryan Budget Threatens the Existence of Key Agencies That Protect Air, Water & Wildlife

The Ryan Budget projects that by 2050, discretionary programs both defense and domestic will equal 3.75% of gross National Product (GNP). Assuming the historical standard 3% of GNP for defense, just three quarters of one percent of the federal budget will remain for domestic discretionary spending. The result would force Congress to choose which federal agencies should remain-- endangering the EPA, Department of the Interior, the NOAA and others and putting environmental protection and restoration in peril.

The Ryan Budget Discontinues America's Investment in Public Lands

The Ryan budget recommends that millions of acres of public lands be sold to generate revenue. It calls these lands "unneeded public land," and notes that "such sales could also potentially be encouraged by reducing appropriations to various agencies." By starving essential agencies of necessary funds, the budget would force the government to sell off land just to make sure it can function. These efforts to sell off public land to support the economy have it backward. Our lands are not only vital for hunting, fishing, camping and hiking, they are critical to the outdoor recreation economy that generates a trillion dollars

every year. We must support our economy by protecting our public wild lands, not selling them off.

The Ryan Budget Slashes Clean Energy Programs

The Ryan budget requires that the Energy & Commerce Committee reduce spending by \$96.7 billion by 2022. This would cut clean energy programs by roughly 19 percent; would derail efforts to put a million electric vehicles on the road by 2015; blocks needed retrofits of residential homes to save energy and consumers money; and blocks the commercial building sector from increasing efficiency by 20% by 2022.

The Ryan Budget Slashes Agriculture Programs

The Ryan budget requires that the Agriculture Committee reduce spending by \$33.2 billion by 2022. This would likely result in disproportionate cuts to NRCS's natural resources conservation programs. These programs help people reduce soil erosion, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, and reduce damages caused by floods and other natural disasters. Public benefits include enhanced natural resources that help sustain agricultural productivity and environmental quality while supporting continued economic development, recreation, and scenic beauty.

The Ryan Budget Stymies Economic Growth

Conservation and environment investments directly help people in communities in every state. They create jobs, leverage additional public and private investment, and support infrastructure maintenance and improvements. A new economic study demonstrates that the great outdoors and historic preservation generate a conservative estimate of more than \$1 trillion in total economic activity and support 9.4 million jobs each year¹. The outdoor recreation industry alone contributes \$730 billion annually to the U.S. economy, supporting more than 6 million jobs and \$49 billion in federal tax revenues². Grants issued under the Clean Air Act have had a direct impact on the health and welfare of millions of Americans: a report issued by EPA in 2010 estimated that the law has prevented 160,000 premature deaths, 130,000 heart attacks, 13 million lost workdays and 1.7 million asthma attacks³.

These investments also have a multiplier effect that results in more jobs, higher incomes and increased property values, benefiting local businesses that provide goods and services, and supporting everyone from construction company owners to sport-fishing guides. But without federal assistance to help states and communities clean up contaminated waterways, reduce air pollution or protect wildlife habitat, these economic benefits will be lost.

¹ Southwick Associates for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, "The Economics Associated with Outdoor Recreation, Natural Resources Conservation and Historic Preservation in the United States," October 10, 2011

² Outdoor Industry Foundation, "The Active Outdoor Recreation Economy: A \$730 Billion Annual Contribution to the U.S. Economy, Fall 2006.

³ EPA Benefits and Costs of the Clean Air Act, Second Prospective Study, <http://www.epa.gov/air/sect812/prospective2.html>

Graphic Representations of the Ryan Budget

Sometimes pictures tell the story best. Table 1 shows the percentage of the federal budget that is spent on the programs that protect air, water & wildlife (Function 300). As you can see, that percentage has fallen from its peak in the mid-1970s to approximately 1 percent.

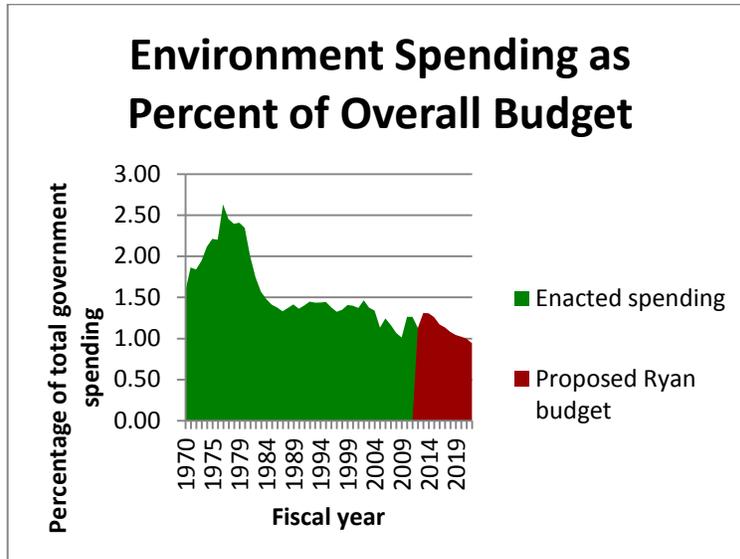
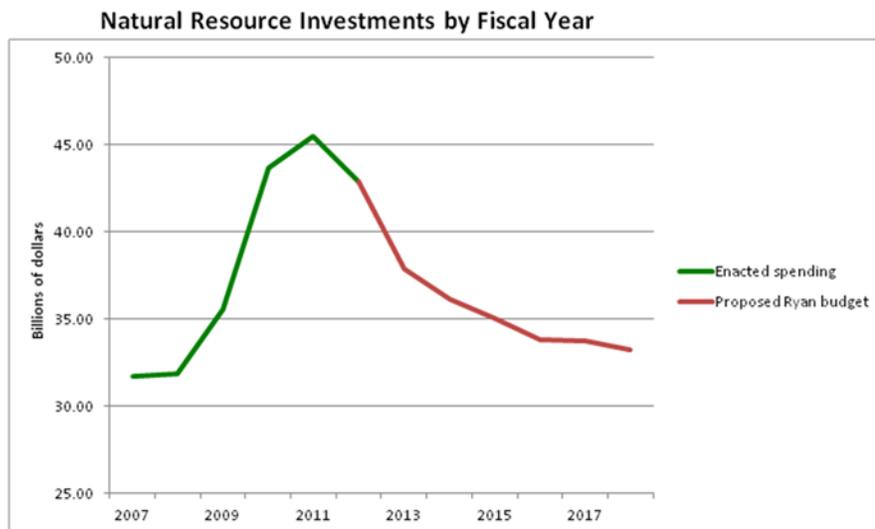


Table 2 shows the trends for Function 300 funding for the past 5 years as well as the proposed funding levels in the Ryan Budget for the next 5 years. This trend line effectively turns the clock back on environmental protection and restoration. That would mean that advancements of the past ten years could be wiped away. These include: invigorated efforts to restore the Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay; unprecedented in a clean energy future, investments in making offshore drilling safer, and more.



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