



AIBS Public Policy Office

AIBS Council Meeting
May 19, 2010

Robert Gropp, Ph.D.
Director of Public Policy

Mission

- Improve communication between science and public policy communities;
- Build capacity of biological sciences community to successfully engage in the public policy process;
- Influence development and implementation of science policy;
- Assist AIBS member societies and organizations with their public policy agendas; and,
- Communicate AIBS and member society/organization interests to the public, science community, and policy makers.

Active Member Societies

Partner

- Natural Science Collections Alliance

Collaborator

- Society for the Study of Evolution;

Participant

- American Ornithologists' Union; American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists; Association of Ecosystem Research Centers; Biological Sciences Curriculum Study; Botanical Society of America; Long Term Ecological Research Network; Organization of Biological Field Stations; Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology; Society of Systematic Biologists; Society of Wetland Scientists;

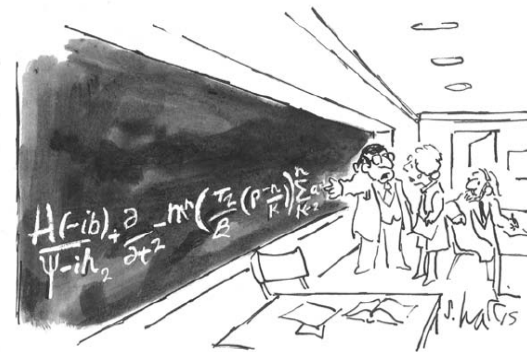
Supporter

- American Arachnological Society; International Society of Protistologists—North America; Mycological Society of America; Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry—North America

Policy Communication

- Bridge between scientists and policymakers
- Work with media to communicate science to decision-makers and public
- Provide scientists with tools to influence policy and media
- Provide timely policy analysis

Communicating Science: A Primer for Working with the Media



"BUT THIS IS THE SIMPLIFIED VERSION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC."

Holly Menninger Robert Gropp

A publication of the American Institute of Biological Sciences
Washington, DC © 2008

Workshops and Training Programs

- The AIBS Public Policy Office offers a range of professional development workshops
 - Communicating with Policy/decision-makers
 - Communicating with the Media
 - Careers in Science Policy
- Programs range from 2 hours to full-day
- Most programs are in-person, some programs are conducted via webinar

Policy Analysis

- Various outlets and products
 - **NEW:** Report on President's Budget for Biology R&D
 - Fact sheets
 - Bi-weekly Public Policy Report
 - Washington Watch in *BioScience*
 - Articles in member society publications
 - Public presentations, briefings



The President's FY 2011 Budget for Biological Sciences Research

A Report of the AIBS Public Policy Office
February 16, 2010

Prepared by:
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Julie Palakovich Carr, Senior Public Policy Associate

Summary

President Obama released his \$3.8 trillion budget plan for fiscal year (FY) 2011 on 1 February 2010. As pledged by the President, the budget includes proposed increases in various federal research and development (R&D) programs.

On average, federal investments in R&D would increase by 6.4 percent to more than \$61 billion under the President's budget. Included in these proposed new investments are the Department of Energy (DoE), Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Science Foundation (NSF), and United States Geological Survey (USGS).

Some agencies are slated to receive record R&D budgets in FY 2011. Under the President's proposal, the USDA would receive a record high budget for competitive, extramural research grants. NOAA R&D would also float higher with record new investments proposed.

Some agencies, however, would trim spending on biological and environmental research. The Biological Resources Discipline within the USGS would fall 1.8 percent below the FY 2010 level. Forest and rangeland research at the United States Forest Service (USFS) would be trimmed by 2.5 percent. No funding is allocated for agricultural research buildings and facilities at USDA. A 4.7 percent cut to funding for ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes research at NOAA has also been proposed.

Policy Advocacy

- Lobby lawmakers
- Coalition efforts: Co-chair, BEESC and USGS Coalition, participate in CNSF, STEM Ed, Museum Working Group, Coalition of Scientific Society, Campaign Project
- Grassroots advocacy, including training to help scientists be effective advocates

Advocacy

Sponsors

- American Institute of Biological Sciences
- Botanical Society of America
- Genetics Society of America
- LTER Network
- Society of Systematic Biologists

Supporter

- Stanford University's Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve



Advocacy

Sponsors

- Society for Study of Evolution
- Botanical Society of America
- American Society for Limnology and Oceanography
- Association of Ecosystem Research Centers

Visit the
*Legislative Action
Center*



Protect science
interests on
Capitol Hill!

Some Current Policy Issues

- Research infrastructure (e.g. natural science collections)
- Reauthorization of America COMPETES
- Grand challenges – how to fund science to inform these issues (e.g. new models and interdisciplinary)
- Education and workforce

What are you hearing?



For More Information



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