Analysis of the President’s FY 2014 Budget Request for Biological Sciences Research and Education

A Report from the AIBS Public Policy Office
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Summary

President Obama released a $3.8 trillion budget plan for fiscal year (FY) 2014 on 10 April 2013. According to the White House, the budget proposal would reduce the federal deficit by increasing revenues and cutting spending. The proposal would replace sequestration, the $1.2 trillion in automatic spending cuts mandated by the Budget Control Act.

Science is once again a priority in the President’s budget request. The Administration proposed $142.8 billion for federal research and development (R&D), an increase of 1.3 percent over the 2012 level. Although defense R&D would be cut by 5.2 percent, non-defense R&D would increase by 9.2 percent to $69.6 billion.

Nearly all science agencies and biological research programs would see increased funding in FY 2014. Notably, the National Science Foundation would receive an 8.4 percent increase. Other science programs slated for a budget increase include the National Institutes of Health, Department of Energy Office of Science, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Agriculture, and several Department of the Interior bureaus. Funding for Environmental Protection Agency science would be reduced.

Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education programs would be consolidated across the federal government. More than 100 programs at 11 agencies are targeted for elimination or reorganization. Some programs would be moved to the Department of Education, National Science Foundation, or Smithsonian Institution.

The multi-agency U.S. Global Change Research Program would receive $2.7 billion, an increase of about six percent.
Agency Budget Summaries

Department of Energy Office of Science

- Department of Energy request: $28.4 billion (+$2.1 billion)
- Office of Science request: $5.2 billion (+$217.8 million)
- Biological and Environmental Research request: $625.3 million (+$32.9 million)

The Department of Energy Office of Science is slated to receive a 4.4 percent increase in the President’s budget request. Funding for Biological and Environmental Research would grow at a slightly higher rate (+5.6 percent), with proposed funding of $625.3 million.

The Biological and Environmental Research program supports research to explore the frontiers of genome-enabled biology; discover the physical, chemical, and biological drivers of climate change; and seek the molecular determinants of environmental sustainability and stewardship. About two-thirds of the program’s budget is spent on research, with the remainder allocated to Department of Energy facility operations.

Several areas of biological research are targeted for increases in FY 2014. Terrestrial ecosystem science would receive an increase (+$4.8 million; +7.1 percent); these funds would support new experimental field activities related to the development of predictive models on the relationships between tropical ecosystems and climate change. Genomics science would receive $13.0 million (+7.1 percent) in new funding for the development of new toolkits to facilitate biosystems design engineering applications in bioenergy production, carbon and nutrient cycling, and environmental change. Nearly $10 million in new funding would be devoted to research on the scaling properties of processes occurring from the molecular to the mesoscale and multicellular organization.

Some programmatic areas would be flat funded and a few programs would be subject to budget cuts. For example, the radiological sciences program would be cut by $15.6 million (-44.8 percent). Funding for the Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory would be cut by $3.7 million (-7.3 percent); the facility provides integrated experimental and computation resources for research in the environmental molecular sciences.

Although the average research grant size would not change, the Biological and Environmental Research program expects to award 10 more grants than in FY 2012.

The President’s budget request would severely cut back support for graduate student research. A fellowship program was started in 2009 to support graduate students pursuing fundamental research relevant to the Office of Science. The program received $5.0 million in FY 2012; the FY 2014 proposed funding level is $2.0 million.

Note about Baselines

All calculations are for discretionary programs and are relative to the FY 2012 enacted level, unless otherwise noted. The effects of sequestration are not accounted for in this document.
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- EPA request: $8.2 billion (-$296.4 million)
- Science and Technology request: $783.9 million (-$9.8 million)

Overall spending at EPA would decline by 3.5 percent under the proposed budget. Funding for science and technology programs would decrease by 1.2 percent.

Within the Office of Research and Development, funding for ecosystem research would decline to $60.0 million (-1.2 percent). Research on air, climate, and energy would benefit from a 7.8 percent increase. Research on safe and sustainable water resources would increase by 4.5 percent.

Increased funding would be available for research on climate change impacts on human health and ecosystems (+$3.2 million) and the environmental impacts of biofuels (+$1.3 million). Risk reviews of chemicals would be supported with new funding. Additionally, research to develop processes and products that minimize the hazardous impacts of the manufacture, use, and disposal of chemicals would receive a $4.1 million increase.

EPA would expand work with the Department of Energy and United States Geological Survey to understand the potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing on air, ecosystems, and water quality.

Several large-scale ecological restoration projects would continue. The cleanup of the Great Lakes would be supported at $300.0 million (+$0.5 million). Restoration of the Chesapeake Bay would receive $15.7 million in new funding (+27 percent).

The budget would be zeroed out for EPA’s Science to Achieve Results graduate fellowships and Greater Research Opportunities undergraduate fellowships. The proposed $16.4 million decrease would facilitate the Administration’s comprehensive reorganization of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education programs across 11 agencies. These programs would be transferred to NSF.

The FY 2014 President’s budget eliminates beach protection grants (-$9.9 million) and environmental education (-$9.7 million). Both of these programs were proposed for elimination in the 2013 budget request. Moreover, the proposed staffing level for the entire EPA is the lowest in 20 years. Other reductions include $1.2 million from endocrine disruptors research and $1.0 million from community, children, and minority population’s health research.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

- NASA request: $17.7 billion (-$54.6 million)
- Earth Science request: $1.8 billion (+$80.4 million)

The FY 2014 budget for NASA includes $5.0 billion for science, a 1.2 percent decrease. Conversely, funding for Earth science would increase by 4.6 percent.
NASA’s Earth Science program supports several satellites that observe and track global-scale changes in climate, weather, natural hazards, and the biosphere. The program also engages in research on the role that humans play in global changes.

The increased funding for the Earth Science program would largely be directed to the Earth System Science Pathfinder for Venture Class Missions. This program supports competitively selected projects that are relatively low-cost and small-scale; the frequent flight opportunities mean that scientific investigations can be developed and flown in five years or less. The project would receive $212.7 million in FY 2014 (+297 percent).

The proposed increase for the Venture Class Missions is partially offset with spending reductions in other areas of the Earth Science mission. Investments in Earth science research would decline by $4.6 million. The largest cut would come from Earth Systematic Missions (-$93.4 million).

The budget request includes an increase to begin work on land imaging capabilities beyond LandSat 8, which launched in February 2013. The request also includes funds for NASA to assume responsibility for several Earth measurements previously conducted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The $94.2 million designated for education at NASA is 31 percent less than in FY 2012. NASA plans to consolidate the education functions of several directorates, including the Earth Science program, into a single coordinated project. NASA would coordinate the remaining education programs with the Department of Education, National Science Foundation, and Smithsonian Institution.

**National Institutes of Health (NIH)**

- NIH request: $31.2 billion (+$471.0 million)

The President's budget proposes a 1.5 percent increase for NIH. About half of the budget would go towards research project grants ($16.9 billion, +$381.9 million). Intramural research would receive $3.5 billion (+$66.2 million).

The budget proposal would continue support for basic and applied research, including an enhanced investment in Alzheimer’s research. The budget would prioritize research on our understanding of the brain through a $40 million investment as part of the White House’s Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies initiative. Other areas of focus include development of a network of research participants for clinical trials and enhancing the development of new therapeutics.

Funding for Research Project Grants (RPGs) would increase by 2.3 percent. The number of new competing RPGs would increase by about 1,283 over FY 2012 (+14.3 percent). At the proposed funding level, 19 percent of proposals would be funded, an increase of one percent from the current funding rate. The average size of grants would also increase by 8.4 percent; if the HIV/AIDS clinical trials were excluded, however, the average grant size would be only slightly higher than FY 2012.
Training program funding would increase slightly. Stipend rates would grow by two percent for predoctoral research trainees and an average of four percent for postdoctoral trainees.

The Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity Program will provide “relatively under-resourced institutions” with the resources to provide mentoring, tuition scholarships, and stipends to undergraduates in order to help them advance to graduate school. Other new initiatives to increase diversity in the biomedical workforce include a national research mentoring network and creation of a working group on diversity.

Nine of NIH’s STEM education programs would be reorganized as part of the government-wide consolidation.

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**

- **NOAA request: $5.4 billion (+$542.4 million)**

Under the President’s budget, funding for NOAA would increase 11.1 percent. The budget proposes new funding for research and natural resource management activities. Additional funding requested for the acquisition of weather and climate satellites. The escalating costs for at least one of these programs have been contained, thereby relieving budgetary pressure on NOAA’s research and conservation activities.

The Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, the program that manages about two-thirds of NOAA’s R&D funding, would see a sizeable increase next year. At $472.4 million, the budget request represents a 23.4 percent increase. The largest increase, $45.3 million, would be directed to climate research. About half of that total would be directed to competitively awarded research; a major initiative would be studying the impacts of climate on fish stocks and prey availability. Ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes research would increase by $22.5 million. Ten million dollars would be used to sponsor an ocean mapping challenge. The National Undersea Research Program and the Aquatic Invasive Species program would both be terminated.

The FY 2014 budget proposes increased funding for the National Ocean Service (+8.0 percent), breaking the trend set in recent budget requests. This level of funding is comparable to the FY 2008 enacted level. New funding would be directed to competitive, peer-reviewed research on harmful algal blooms, hypoxia, and changes to coastal ecosystems (+$5.2 million). Ten million in additional funding would be used to develop improved marine sensors; an increase is also proposed for the regional Integrated Ocean Observing System.

The National Marine Fisheries Service would receive a 3.8 percent increase for a total of $929.3 million. Increased funding is proposed for scientific consultations for protected species (+$1.9 million), fishery stock assessments (+$4.9 million), and R&D of new fishing techniques and gear modification to minimize bycatch (+$1.1 million). Other research areas would be targeted for an increase, including aquaculture, Arctic marine
ecosystems, and cooperative research. In order to improve program efficiencies, two West Coast offices would be consolidated and a lab in California would be closed.

A number of NOAA’s education programs are identified for termination. Three opportunities for graduate students would be affected: Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship, Sea Grant John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship Program, and Sea Grant/National Marine Fisheries Service Graduate Fellowship. In addition, all state Sea Grant Program STEM activities, Office of Ocean Exploration STEM education activities, Bay-Watershed Education and Training Regional Programs, and other competitive grants programs would be consolidated with other STEM programs.

NOAA would invest $733 million in R&D in FY 2014, a 28 percent increase. Most of NOAA’s R&D funding is spent internally, but about 31 percent would be directed extramurally, an increase from FY 2012.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

- NSF request: $7.6 billion (+$592.7 million)
- Research and Related Activities request: $6.2 billion (+$523.3 million)
- Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction request: $210.1 million (+$13.1 million)
- Education and Human Resources request: $880.3 million (+$51.3 million)
- Biological Sciences Directorate request: $760.6 million (+$48.3 million)

The President’s budget request for NSF would provide an 8.4 percent increase over the FY 2012 appropriation.

Increases are proposed for all mission areas within NSF. The Research and Related Activities account, which includes funding for the various disciplinary directorates, would receive an increase of 9.2 percent. This would fund an additional 4,600 competitive awards during the fiscal year, although the agency’s funding rate is expected to remain at 24 percent. Education and Human Resources, which funds education research and various fellowships, would grow by 6.2 percent. Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction would increase by 6.6 percent. The budget for administrative efforts would receive a modest increase of 1.6 percent.

The budget request includes increases for several Presidential priorities, including big data, interdisciplinary research, sustainability, and innovation commercialization. Toward these goals, the President proposed an increase of $77.5 million for cyberinfrastructure for the Big Data initiative, $42.7 million in new funding for interdisciplinary research, an increase of $65.8 million for sustainability research, and an additional $17.4 million for NSF Innovation Corps.

NSF would become the government-wide leader for undergraduate STEM education, as part of the reorganization proposed by the Administration. A new NSF-wide activity, Catalyzing Advances in Undergraduate STEM Education, would be created from consolidation of several existing NSF programs. The guiding principles for the new
program are to focus investments on student retention, establish the portfolio through collaboration among all NSF directorates, gather input from outside experts, and base future investments on evaluation and demonstrated impacts.

NSF would expand its support for graduate students and early career scientists. The Graduate Research Fellowship program would be renamed the National Graduate Research Fellowship, to reflect the consolidation of STEM education programs across the government. The program would award an additional 700 fellowships, for a total of 2,700 new fellows in FY 2014; NSF would enhance the program to provide a wider range of career development opportunities. A new graduate program, NSF Research Traineeships, is proposed to support traineeship programs at universities. The program would replace the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) program. The Faculty Early Career Development program (CAREER) would support 500 new awards in FY 2014.

For research infrastructure, the FY 2014 budget requests funding for the Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction account for continued construction of the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) and the Ocean Observatories Initiative (OOI). NEON would receive $98.2 million (+$37.9 million) for continued construction. Once completed, NEON will collect data across the United States on the impacts of climate change, land use change, and invasive species on natural resources and biodiversity. The Administration also proposed $27.5 million (-$75.3 million) for the final year of construction of OOI, which will consist of an integrated network of deep-sea buoys, regional cabled nodes on the seafloor, and coastal observatories that will provide continuous, interactive access to the ocean.

NSF plans to initiate three activities to improve program effectiveness and efficiency. The agency would establish a policy framework regarding public access to NSF-funded research. It would also work to improve the operational execution of the merit review process, given the growing number of proposals. Lastly, NSF would establish a centralized capability to coordinate internal reviews of agency activities.

Several programs are recommended for cuts and consolidations totaling $36.9 million. Six Nanoscale Science and Engineering Centers would be terminated; five centers would continue. Two programs within the Mathematical and Physical Sciences Directorate are identified for elimination. Research on the effectiveness of virtual organizations would be terminated. As part of NSF’s realignment of its STEM education portfolio, two programs would be ended within the Directorate for Geosciences: Geoscience Teacher Training and Centers for Ocean Science Education Excellence.

**NSF’s Biological Sciences Directorate (BIO)**

The budget for BIO would increase by 6.8 percent to $760.6 million. BIO provides about 64 percent of federal funding for non-medical, basic life sciences research, including environmental biology, at academic institutions.
The number of research grants awarded and average award size would increase from the FY 2012 level. The funding rate across the directorate is expected to increase, largely due to the implementation of the new proposal submission process.

Within the request for BIO, funding would be allocated among five divisions accordingly:

- Molecular and Cellular Biosciences: $136.4 million (+8.4 percent)
- Integrative Organismal Systems: $225.4 million (+6.1 percent)
- Environmental Biology: $149.0 million (+4.5 percent)
- Biological Infrastructure: $133.7 million (+5.9 percent)
- Emerging Frontiers: $116.2 million (+10.1 percent)

Several NSF-wide initiatives would receive new funding within BIO. In addition to $8.5 million in additional funding for the Science, Engineering and Education for Sustainability initiative, BIO would receive $18.1 million in additional funding for the Research at the Interface of the Biological, Mathematical, and Physical Sciences (BioMaPS) program. The directorate’s support of clean energy technology would grow by $7.0 million. Within the Integrative Organismal Systems, a $5.0 million increase would focus on mapping circuits that drive behavior in a variety of organisms. Additionally, $4.5 million in new funding is proposed for software infrastructure for sustained innovation and cyberinfrastructure in the life sciences.

The Long-Term Ecological Research sites would receive $27.6 million (+0.7 percent). Funding for operations at the National Ecological Observatory Network would be supported at $21.0 million.

Support would continue for digitization of scientific information associated with biological specimens held in U.S. research collections. FY 2014 investments would be guided by the strategic and implementation plans developed by the community.

A new program would be created with the Division of Environmental Biology to link long-term planetary biodiversity data with specimen/collections data. The Strategic Integration for Biological Sciences would be supported with $2.0 million.

**Other NSF Directorates**

The Geosciences (GEO) account would grow to $1.4 billion, an increase of $72.7 million from the FY 2012 funding level. At $272.4 million, the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE) would grow by $18.1 million.

**Smithsonian Institution (SI)**

- Smithsonian Institution request: $869.2 million (+$59.0 million)

Federal support for the Smithsonian Institution would increase by 7.3 percent. The SI is also funded by private donations and a trust fund.
The budget request includes $25 million for STEM education as part of government-wide consolidation of programs. “The Smithsonian will serve as a conduit between federal mission agencies, other non-profits -- including the Smithsonian’s 170 Affiliate museums -- and the Department of Education and school districts,” according to the Institution’s budget documents. Among the education activities that SI would conduct are support of educators in schools and informal learning settings, and development and dissemination of STEM engagement materials that are consistent with new state science standards.

The budget includes an increase of $2.3 million to digitize collections and make them accessible online. Preservation of collections would see an increase of $2.4 million to address deficiencies, implement recommendations made by the Smithsonian Inspector General, and improve accessibility of collections currently at risk of loss or damage.

Several Smithsonian facilities used for research and curation of scientific collections would be renovated under the proposed FY 2014 budget. The National Museum of Natural History would receive $17.7 million for repairs. Two million dollars would be used to construct a collections storage facility.

**United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

- *Department of Agriculture request: $22.6 billion (+$118 million)*
- *Research, Education, and Economics request: $2.9 billion (+$173 million)*

The proposed budget for research, education, and economics is 6.4 percent more than the FY 2012 level.

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) partners with extramural academic institutions to conduct research, education, and extension activities. NIFA would receive $1.3 billion (+7 percent). Nearly all of this increase would be directed to research and education activities.

Within NIFA, the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) would receive $383.4 million for competitive extramural research grants. At this level, AFRI would receive a 45 percent budget increase, a record high funding level if enacted. The new resources would be directed to workforce development, water resources research, food safety, biofuel production and associated land-use changes, and climate change adaptation for agricultural production systems.

Six agricultural research education programs would be consolidated into the Department of Education and the National Science Foundation, including graduate and postgraduate fellowship grants.

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) conducts intramural research in the areas of natural and biological science. It would receive $1.3 billion in FY 2014, $184 million more than FY 2012. Several programmatic areas would receive new funding or reallocate existing funds in FY 2014. Research in support of environmental stewardship
would grow by $30 million, with an increased focus on long-term research at the landscape level, enhancing plant tolerance to environmental stress, and reducing vulnerability of agriculture to climate change. In the area of crop production, some existing funds would be reallocated from lower priority projects to focus on agricultural sustainability, enhance floral and nursery research, accelerate crop yields, and improve crop genetic resource capacity. ARS research budgets would be cut for livestock production, new products, and crop protection.

One ARS facility, the Southeast Poultry Disease Research Laboratory in Athens, Georgia, would be replaced at a cost of $155 million. A new facility would enable research on emerging or exotic poultry diseases.

The National Agricultural Library would receive an additional $5 million for the development of a unified and publically accessible data system for research findings, scientific collections, and scholarly publications.

**USDA Forest Service**

- Forest Service request: $4.9 billion (+$13.5 million)
- Forest and Rangeland Research request: $310.2 million (+$14.9 million)

Funding for Forest Service research would increase by 5.1 percent, despite a relatively flat budget overall for the agency.

Forest Service research provides scientific information and new technologies to support sustainable management of the nation’s forests and rangelands. These products and services increase basic biological and physical knowledge of composition, structure, and function of forest, rangeland, and aquatic ecosystems. The agency is currently focused on seven research priorities: forest disturbances, forest inventory and analysis, watershed management and restoration, bioenergy and biobased products, urban natural resources stewardship, nanotechnology, and localized needs research.

Nearly all research programs are targeted for new funding. The largest increase is for research management and use (+8.9 percent), which funds research on integrated management and production systems, sustainable bioenergy production, forest genetics, and urban sustainability. Invasive species R&D would increase by 5.4 percent to $37.8 million. This would enable maintenance of research on priority invasive species and emerging pests and pathogens.

A 4.3 percent increase for water, air, and soil R&D would be used for watershed restoration and science delivery. A comparable increase is proposed for inventory and monitoring. Wildlife and fish R&D would be flat funded.
United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

- **FWS request: $1.6 billion (+$76.4 million)**

The proposed budget includes a 5.2 percent overall increase for the Fish and Wildlife Service. FWS is the only federal agency whose primary responsibility is management of biological resources. It is charged with protection of endangered species, migratory birds, marine mammals, and other fish and wildlife species.

The budget for science support for FWS activities would increase by $11.8 million to $33.3 million. Some of this increase would support applied science to answer high impact questions surrounding threats to fish and wildlife. New funding would also be provided to direct, focus, and accelerate the science efforts of FWS partners on white-nose syndrome in bats. One million dollars would be directed to research on biological carbon sequestration. Other proposed increases include $1.4 million for research on the impacts and mitigation of energy transmission corridors in the western United States, $0.5 million for climate adaptation research on invasive species, and $1.4 million for ecosystem conservation demonstration projects.

Renewable energy is another FWS priority. Consultation, planning, and research on the impacts of renewable energy projects on wildlife would increase by $7.4 million to a total of $17.5 million in FY 2014.

Overall funding to administer the Endangered Species Act would increase to $185.4 million (+5.4 percent).

Funding for the National Wildlife Refuge System would increase by $13.5 million, to a total of $499.2 million. Included is an increase of $3.0 million for refuge inventory and monitoring.

United States Geological Survey (USGS)

- **USGS request: $1.2 billion (+$98.8 million)**
- **USGS Ecosystems Activity request: $180.8 million (+$22.5 million)**

The budget for the USGS would increase by 9.3 percent in FY 2014. According to USGS budget documents: “The 2014 budget builds on the core historical mission of the USGS, increases research and development funding by $87.7 million [+13.0 percent] to advance priorities in science-based resource management and the protection of public health and safety from hazards, focuses existing resources on science priorities identified in the USGS Science Strategy, and makes difficult targeted program decreases.” The budget proposes $36.6 million in program reductions to achieve greater cost efficiencies and to offset increases in fixed costs.

The Ecosystems activity within USGS would receive an increase of $22.5 million (+14.2 percent). The new funding would be distributed across all six programmatic areas:
Status and Trends (+0.6 percent); Fisheries (+21.0 percent); Wildlife (+8.1 percent); Environments (+23.1 percent); Invasive Species (+42.3 percent); and the Cooperative Research Units (+0.7 percent). Included in the proposed funding are increases for ecosystem restoration science in eight major aquatic environments and implementation of a recommendation by the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology to integrate information on the condition of U.S. ecosystems.

The proposed budget for the USGS includes an increase of $14.6 million above the FY 2012 enacted level for climate and land use change science. The Climate Science Centers would receive new funds for tracking climate change adaptation research across the federal government, translational science grants, and expanding adaptation planning activities. Also included is an increase of $3.2 million for emerging science needs in regional responses to climate and land use stressors. In FY 2014, the USGS would complete the first-ever national assessment of biological carbon sinks.

The Science for Coastal and Ocean Stewardship initiative would receive an increase of $6.1 million to support vulnerability assessments in the Arctic and Pacific Islands, mapping of seabed and coastal conditions, and science synthesis.

The Water Resources activity would be funded at $222.9 million (+$13.3 million). The request includes $6.0 million in additional funding for water quality research, including the areas of fisheries and contaminant biology. Development of a new system for access and use of water budget information would be boosted by $2.3 million. USGS would also begin developing a model on the connection between hydrology and biology within any target watershed.

Additional funding is proposed for science to support Interior’s New Energy Frontier initiative, and $13.0 million in increased funding has been requested to address priority science issues related to hydraulic fracturing. A two million dollar increase is proposed for environmental research related to permitting of alternative energies on federal lands.

**What’s Next?**

The President’s budget request is only a proposal; it does not have binding authority. Congress uses the President’s budget request as a starting point for their budget negotiations. Congress makes adjustments to the President's budget, particularly if different political parties control Congress and White House, as is currently the case in the House of Representatives. Congress has already begun their consideration of the FY 2014 budget, although it will be several months before any final decisions are made.
About AIBS

The American Institute of Biological Sciences is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) scientific association dedicated to advancing biological research and education for the welfare of society. AIBS works to ensure that the public, legislators, funders, and the community of biologists have access to and use information that will guide them in making informed decisions about matters that require biological knowledge. The organization does this through informing decisions by providing peer-reviewed or vetted information about the biology field and profession and by catalyzing action through building the capacity and the leadership of the community to address matters of common concern.

Founded in 1947 as a part of the National Academy of Sciences, AIBS became an independent, member-governed organization in the 1950s. Today, AIBS has nearly 160 member organizations and is headquartered in Reston, VA, with a Public Policy Office in Washington, DC. Its approximately 40 staff members work to achieve its mission by publishing the peer-reviewed journal BioScience and the education Web site ActionBioscience.org, by providing scientific peer-review and advisory services to government agencies and other clients, and by collaborating with scientific organizations to advance public policy, education, and the public understanding of science. For more information, please visit www.aibs.org.

More Resources

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Other budget resources are available on the AIBS website, including information on the federal budget process and factsheets on funding for the biological sciences. Please visit www.aibs.org/public-policy/budget_source.html for more information.

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