

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION

Resource Summary

(\$ in thousands)

Appropriations	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 CR ⁽¹⁾	FY 2014 Request	Increase/Decrease From FY2012
Positions - Enduring	8	8	8	0
Enduring Funds	2,279	2,293	2,449	170

(1) The FY 2013 CR is based on the annualized continuing resolution calculation for FY 2013 (P.L. 112-175).

Program Description

The primary mission of the International Boundary Commission (IBC) is to maintain an “effective” (cleared and well-marked) boundary between the United States and Canada as prescribed by the 1925 Treaty of Washington. In recent years, the IBC has modified its mission in ways that permit it to support more effectively the Department’s strategic goal of Achieving Peace and Security. To achieve its mission the IBC has established a 15-year maintenance schedule for the entire U.S.-Canadian boundary (5,525 miles) as the primary performance measure of the effectiveness of the IBC. The February 2004 “Report on the Present State of the Maintenance of the United States and Canada Boundary and Recommendations for the Future” details the state of the boundary and the steps necessary for the IBC to meet the performance goal. This plan was adopted by the IBC in 2005 however only the Canadian section was funded to meet the requirements of the plan. The U.S. section was funded to the levels required by the plan in 2010. A new 15-year plan taking into account past and current funding levels is included in IBC’s 2010 annual report which is currently being translated by the Canadian section of the IBC.

The IBC appropriation provides funds to implement U.S. obligations under the Treaty, thereby maintaining and preserving an effective boundary line between the two countries that ensures the sovereignty of each nation over its territory by clearly establishing where one’s rights, and responsibilities end, and the other’s begin, thus virtually eliminating the potential for serious and costly boundary disputes. The Treaty specifies that, to be effective, the boundary line must be accurately delineated and marked with stable identifying monuments. This is accomplished on land by clearing a 20-foot wide line-of-sight (i.e., “vista”) from one boundary monument to the next along the entire 5,525 U.S.-Canadian mile boundary. Vista clearing is largely a manual process requiring the use of manual labor and heavy equipment and includes the use of helicopters to reach impassable mountainous areas. The IBC maintains more than 5,500 land boundary monuments and more than 2,800 reference monuments that are used to locate the water boundary. In addition, the IBC regulates construction crossing the boundary and provides boundary-specific positional and cartographic data to the public and private sectors.

The new 15-year maintenance plan addresses the necessity of continuous maintenance due to the deterioration and destruction of boundary monuments, brush, and timber overgrowth that obstruct the 20-foot wide vista. The discontinuation of herbicide use in the late seventies has had a tremendous impact in high growth areas, cost associated with clearing these areas has almost doubled. Increased security issues along the boundary in recent years has caused the IBC to alter project priorities and maintenance cycles in some areas and to accelerate the maintenance cycle in other high traffic areas.

The Treaty mandates that the boundary be depicted with modern coordinates on modern charts. Geographic reference systems have changed since the boundary was established. Consequently, the IBC is continuing to re-survey the entire boundary; converting all geographic positions to currently used systems, and maintaining databases of this information.

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Performance

Each year a number of maintenance projects are planned and undertaken by the IBC that address a specified number of miles along the boundary that are inspected, cleared, surveyed, or in which monuments are repaired or replaced. The maintenance of the physical line itself is essential to meeting the IBC’s mandate under the Treaty.

Strategic Goal 3: Expand and sustain the ranks of prosperous, stable and democratic states by promoting effective, accountable, democratic governance; respect for human rights; sustainable, broad-based economic growth; and well-being								
Strategic Priority		Environment/Climate Change						
Active Performance Indicator		NEW APP INDICATOR: Percent of priority annual milestones completed as part of the 15-year maintenance plan						
Prior Year Results and Ratings					FY 2012		Planned Targets	
FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	Target	Result and Rating	FY 2013	FY 2014
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Baseline	100% (Baseline) New Indicator, No Rating	100%	100%
Impact		Baseline; N/A						
Methodology		‘Priority annual milestones’ are defined as annual milestones as part of the 15-year maintenance plan for which funding has been allocated and which are projected to be completed in that FY. Data will be determined by assigning a percentage of the total resources available to each project from the total resources available for all projects. At the end of the FY, each project will be evaluated and a completion percentage will be determined.						
Data Source and Quality		IBC records. The DQA reveals no significant quality limitations.						

Justification of Request

The FY 2014 Request of \$2.4 million will fund IBC’s operations and eight boundary maintenance projects, and provides \$1.2 million for administration. This level of funding reflects an increase of \$170,000 above the FY 2012 Actual and includes \$8,000 for American COLA. The Programmatic amounts below will be matched by reciprocal funding by IBC’s Canadian counterpart.

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Operations \$997,000 (an increase of \$107,000)

The FY 2014 Request of \$997,000 provides funding to maintain IBCs ongoing operations, including funding for salaries and benefits of the permanent staff of the IBC as well as their support costs. The support costs includes communications, supplies, rent and all travel by headquarters staff and non-field season travel undertaken by field officers for the Washington, DC office, and three field offices located in Great Falls, Montana, Thief River Falls, Minnesota and Houlton, Maine boundary maintenance projects.

Field Campaigns \$1,252,000 (an increase of \$49,000)

The request will fund the eight IBC boundary maintenance projects listed below.

- Surveying and Monumentation 141st Meridian (Alaska-Yukon) (400 miles): \$514,000 (*3rd year of 5-year project*)
- St Francis River Vista clearing and Monument Maintenance (Maine-New Brunswick) (75 miles): \$50,000
- Glacier Park Vista clearing (Montana-Alberta) (three miles): \$30,000
- Boundary Bay Range Tower Maintenance (Washington-British Columbia): \$25,000
- Foothills to W. Kootenay Vista Clearing 49th Parallel (Washington-British Columbia) (60 miles): \$320,000
- Rainey River Monumentation and Inspection (Minnesota-Ontario) (132 miles): \$82,000
- North Line Vista clearing (Maine-New Brunswick) (35 miles): \$140,000
- Monumentation and Inspection 49th Parallel (Montana/North Dakota-Saskatchewan/Manitoba) (300 miles): \$91,000

Mapping/ GIS Projects \$100,000 (a decrease of \$40,000)

The updating of all 256 Official Maps and the development of the GIS system is now complete. This cost will be required on a yearly basis to update maps as mandated by the Treaty every year, and to populate and maintain the GIS system on a yearly basis.

Equipment Life Cycle Replacement Program \$100,000 (an increase of \$54,000)

The request will purchase two ATV's and one pick-up truck, equipment for IBC's field offices. The IBC maintains six pick-up trucks, three large trucks, three tractors, two track machines and six ATV's. Pick-ups require replacement every 6-8 years, tractors and large trucks 10 years, track machines 20 years, and ATV's 3-4 years.

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Funds by Object Class

(\$ in thousands)

International Boundary Commission (IBC)	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 CR	FY 2014 Request	Increase/Decrease From FY2012
1100 Personnel Compensation	557	557	608	51
1200 Personnel Benefits	167	167	183	16
2100 Travel & Trans of Persons	94	94	101	7
2300 Rents, Comm & Utilities	83	83	91	8
2500 Other Services	1,281	1,295	1,359	78
2600 Supplies and Materials	51	51	56	5
3100 Personal Property	46	46	51	5
Total	2,279	2,293	2,449	170