



# Service First Update

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## **Service First in the FY2012 House Appropriations Bill Mark-Up**

The just released FY2012 House Interior-Environments Appropriations Bill Mark-up calls for Service First authority to become permanent when the budget passes. Language to that effect will be inserted in Continuing Resolution language. The only proposed change in the authority is to make it permanent.

## **Service First in the FY2012 House Appropriations Bill Report**

Service First authority and goals cited, page 11: *"The Committee maintains that agencies need to step up their efforts to consolidate regional offices across agencies. For example, three or more agencies in this bill have regional offices located in Albuquerque, Anchorage, Atlanta, Billings, Denver, Phoenix, Portland, and Sacramento. Agencies located in these cities should be co-located, and other agencies located in cities nearby should consider relocating to these and other more centralized locations. Similarly, field offices with two or fewer staff should be closed or co-located with field offices of other agencies—particularly when their functions are similar. The Committee believes that the Service First authority, first provided in fiscal year 2000, has resulted in creative ways for Federal agencies to work collaboratively, achieve more effective and efficient operations, and improve customer service. The Committee has reviewed testimony from Federal agencies and others about the potential for Service First to be expanded to generate even greater benefits. The Committee requests a joint report from the Department and the Forest Service on the Service First initiative, including recommendations to improve its effectiveness, estimated performance metrics and cost savings to date, and examples of successful use within 180 days of enactment of this Act [after the budget is passed]. The Committee has provided \$2,500,000 \*for the Department of the Interior's effort to identify operating efficiencies and achieve savings across bureaus through consolidation of services, facilities, and infrastructure."*

\* The Service First Leadership Team (SFLT\*\*) has met with DOI regarding these funds.

## **"Lead agency" concept within Service First authority**

After further discussion and consideration, the SFLT decided that further study on the "lead agency" concept was needed. This had been part of the proposed budget for FY2012.

\*\*SFLT consists of the FS Deputy Chief for NFS, and Deputy for Operations of the BLM, FWS, and NPS.