

**Department of the Interior: Discretionary Proposal
United States Geological Survey, Mineral Resources Program**

Funding Summary
(In millions of dollars)

	<u>2005</u> <u>Enacted</u>	<u>2006</u> <u>Proposed</u>	<u>Change</u> <u>From 2005</u>
Budget Authority	54	25	-29

Background

The Mineral Resources Program (MRP) maintains national databases and provides information on the location and quantity of minerals, formation of minerals, and the impact of mining on the environment. MRP annually produces 4-5 systematic analyses, 700-720 mineral commodity reports and maintains five national geologic, geochemical, geophysical databases. A PART found that while the program is generally well managed, the program goals were too broad. Many of the products are directed to the interests of States, local governments, industry and academia rather than the Federal Government.

Administration Action

The 2006 Budget reduces MRP work on national and international mineral assessment products and basic research that benefit States, local governments, industry and academia. State and local governments, industry and universities could fund their own mineral assessments and basic research if they consider these products a priority. The reduction is consistent with a PART recommendation to focus MRP on activities that support land use and economic planning decisions. Remaining funds will be focused on mineral surveys and studies that are relevant to ongoing Federal energy, land management, regulatory, and remediation activities.