



GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES Environment & Natural Resources Division (ENRD)

FY 2027 Budget Request at a Glance

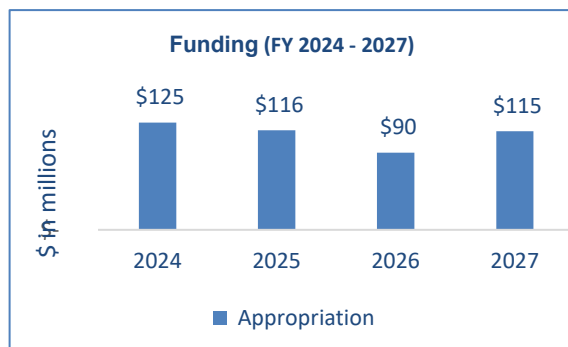
FY 2026 Enacted:	\$90.0 million (389 positions; 260 attorneys)
Current Services Adjustments:	+\$25.0 million
Program Changes:	\$0
FY 2027 Budget Request:	\$115.0 million (389 positions; 260 attorneys)
Change From FY 2026 Enacted:	+\$25.0 million (+27.8%) (0 positions; 0 attorneys)

Mission:

The Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD) is vigorously advancing the President's agenda, including unleashing American energy, promoting reliable and affordable electricity, facilitating timber production, promoting consumer choice in automobiles, cutting burdensome environmental regulations, and securing our borders, all while protecting clean air and water for all Americans through evenhanded enforcement of the nation's environmental laws. ENRD is responsible for enforcing and defending actions taken under more than 150 federal statutes and represents virtually every federal agency in cases arising in all 50 states and the United States' territories. The primary statutes litigated by ENRD include the Clean Air Act; Clean Water Act; Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (Superfund law); and Endangered Species Act; National Environmental Policy Act. The Division's work entails bringing civil and criminal enforcement actions to stop polluters and recover clean-up costs; defending Federal agencies in their administration of Federal programs, including management of Federal lands and other natural resources; defending Federal regulatory agencies that issue environmental regulations; resolving disputes related to Indian Tribes and their lands, defending cases that safeguard wildlife and animal welfare, and acquiring real property by eminent domain for congressionally authorized purposes.

Resources:

The FY 2027 budget request for ENRD totals \$115.0 million, which is a 27.8 percent increase from the FY 2026 Enacted.

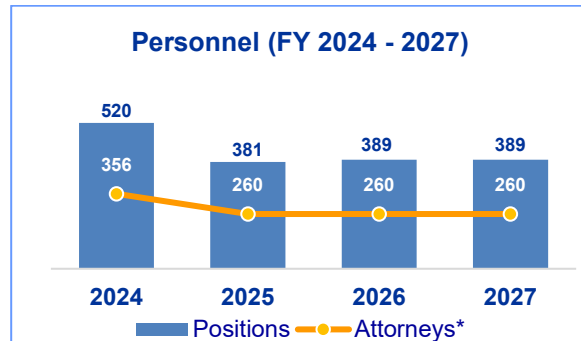


Organization:

ENRD is currently headed by the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General (PDAAG). The PDAAG is assisted by four Deputy Assistant Attorneys General. The PDAAG oversees a division that is organized into specialized practice areas, including areas dedicated to the evenhanded enforcement of the nation's civil and criminal environmental laws and programs, as well as the defense of the United States in a broad range of matters.

Personnel:

ENRD's direct authorized positions for FY 2027 total 389 and remain unchanged from the FY 2026 Enacted level.



FY 2027 Strategy:

As the Nation's chief environmental litigator, ENRD strives to obtain compliance with environmental and conservation statutes, and defends important Executive Branch programs, while effectively implementing many key Presidential Executive Orders and Presidential Memoranda, including but not limited to EO 14165 "Securing Our Borders" (January 20, 2025), EO 14154 "Unleashing American Energy" (January 20, 2025), EO 14213 "Establishing the National Energy Dominance Council" (February 14, 2025), EO 14218 "Ending Taxpayer Subsidization of Open Borders" (February 19, 2025) and EO 14260 "Protecting American Energy From State Overreach" (April 8, 2025).

In FY 2027, ENRD's defensive caseload will continue to rapidly increase as outside interest groups ramp up challenges to the Administration's work to implement the President's agenda. Historically, more than half of the Division's workload has been comprised of defensive matters, with court schedules and deadlines driving the pace of work and attorney time in this area. We expect ENRD's defensive docket to consume a much greater share of the Division's overall work in FY 2027. Defensive cases are non-discretionary—the federal government must respond to lawsuits filed against it.

In the area of enforcement, in FY 2027, ENRD will continue to fairly enforce environmental regulations to protect human health; ensure the vigor of our Superfund cleanup work, which is funded through a reimbursable agreement with EPA; prosecute environmental crimes that harm the American people; and prosecute animal cruelty, which is often connected with gang violence, as well as drug and weapons offenses. ENRD's civil and criminal enforcement cases are complex and often span several years, requiring many attorney hours. These cases result in significant benefits to public health and level the playing field for law-abiding businesses.

The Division's important immigration-related work along the southwest U.S. border will also continue in earnest in FY 2027. ENRD's Land Acquisition Section brings affirmative condemnation actions on behalf of the United States, conducts title work, promulgates the Attorney General's Title Standards for all land acquired by every federal agency, and provides appraisal valuation services. The Division's condemnation program is instrumental in securing land along the southwest U.S. border to build strategic infrastructure.

FY 2027 Program Changes:

No program changes are requested.

Environment & Natural Resources Division
(Dollars in Thousands)

	Environment & Natural Resources Division		
	Pos	FTE	Amount
2025 Enacted	381	365	116,200
2026 Enacted	389	389	90,000
2027 Request	389	389	115,031
Change 2027 from 2026 Enacted	0	0	25,031
FY 2026 Re-baseline Adjustment			
Total Technical Adjustments	0	0	25,195
Base Adjustments			
Pay & Benefits	0	0	184
Domestic Rent & Facilities	0	0	-361
Other Adjustments	0	0	13
Total Base Adjustments	0	0	-164
2027 Current Services	389	389	115,031
Program Changes			
Increases:			
Subtotal, Program Increases	0	0	0
Decreases:			
Subtotal, Program Decreases	0	0	0
Total Program Changes	0	0	0
2027 Request	389	389	115,031

Environment & Natural Resources Division
(Dollars in Thousands)

Comparison by activity and program	2026 Enacted			2027 Current Services		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Environment and Natural Resources	389	389	90,000	389	389	115,031
Total	389	389	90,000	389	389	115,031
Reimbursable FTE		32			32	
Total Direct and Reimbursable	389	421	90,000	389	421	115,031
<i>Sub-Allotments and Direct Collections (FYI)</i>		72			57	
FTE Grand Total		493			478	

Comparison by activity and program	2027 Total Program Changes			2027 Request		
	Pos.	FTE	Amount	Pos.	FTE	Amount
Environment and Natural Resources	0	0	0	389	389	115,031
Total	0	0	0	389	389	115,031
Reimbursable FTE	0	0	0	0	32	0
Total Direct and Reimbursable	0	0	0	389	421	115,031
<i>Sub-Allotments and Direct Collections (FYI)</i>		0			57	
FTE Grand Total		0			478	