

Great Plains CESU



FY2007 Update



Great Plains CESU

FY2001 – FY2007

Project funds: \$6,970,317

Number of projects: 210

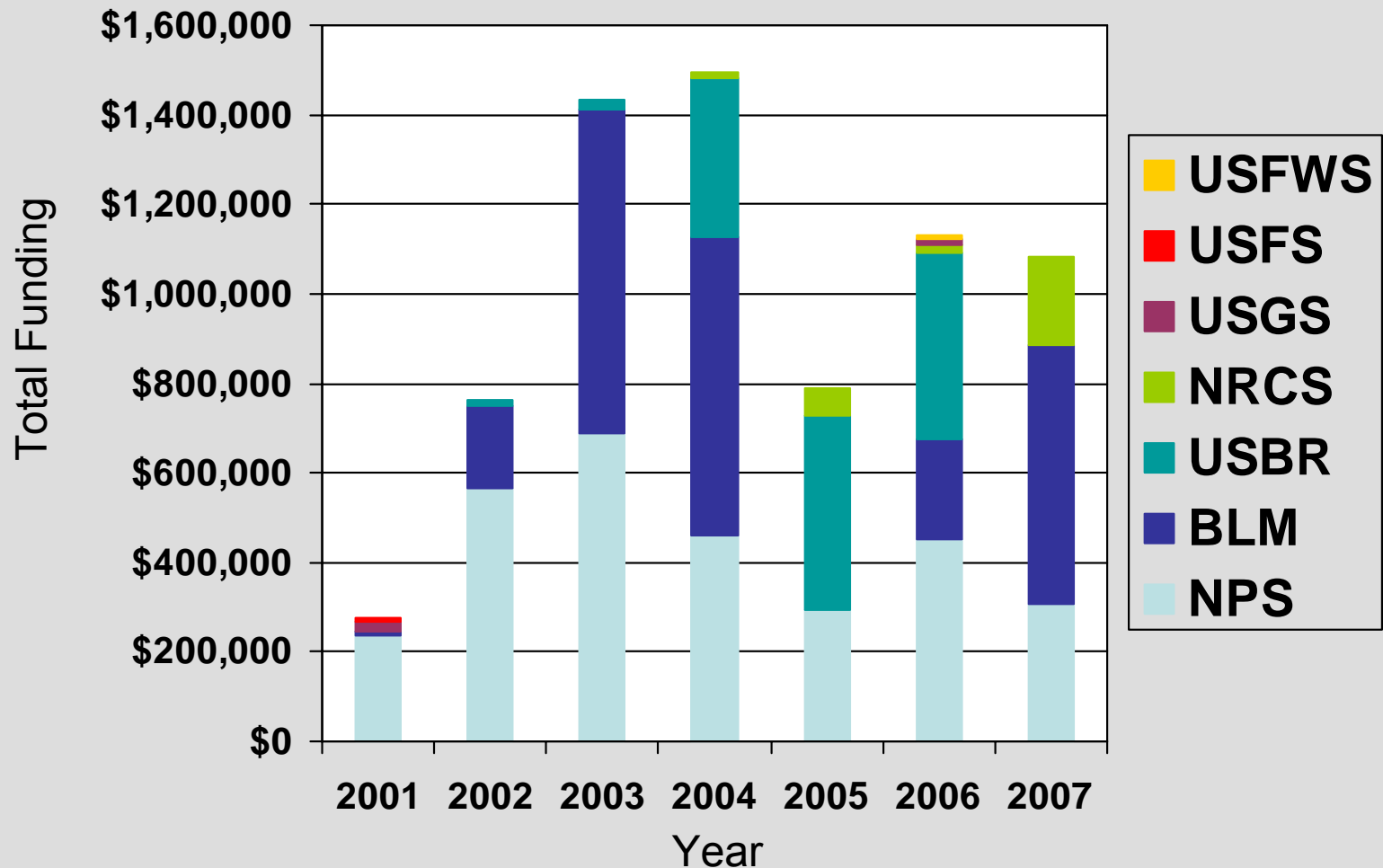


Great Plains CESU

- **FY2007 Project Activity Overview**
 - 22 projects funded by BLM, NPS, NRCS
 - A 50% decrease in the total from last year
 - 3 projects \geq \$100K
 - 7 projects \$30K - \$99K
 - 11 projects $<$ \$30K
 - \$1,084,134 total funding
 - 4% decrease from last year



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- Trends by agency
- ↑ NRCS: best year yet, 11-fold increase in \$\$, 4 new projects
- ↔ BLM: more than double \$\$ from last year, yet zero new project starts
- ↓ NPS: \$\$ decreased by 32%, fewer projects (only 2 new starts)
- ↓ USBR: no project funding this year (1st time since 2003)
- ↔ USGS, USFS, UFWS: no project funding this year
- **New project starts seem to be decreasing**



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- Partner Institutions
 - 10 out of 13 partners received funding
 - First direct project to Black Hills State University
- 3 new members:
 - Emporia State University
 - New Mexico Highlands University
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - Research & Development Center
 - Amendment is being prepared by the National Office, hope to circulate for signatures soon



Network CESU

- National CESU meeting summer 2008 in D.C.
 - Working on selection of concrete dates (likely late June)
 - Soliciting ideas for program content and elements/activities
 - Soliciting volunteers for program planning committee



Network CESU

- Ideas that have been shared so far:
 - Climate-change and related ramifications for public lands, waters, cultural resources, and infrastructure
 - Cross-institutional and cross-CESU projects to promote more intra and inter-CESU collaboration
 - Training and capacity building opportunities
 - CESU-related outreach to increase visibility and engagement



Network CESU

- Project tracking and accountability
 - Concern raised by CESUs and CESU Council
 - Project tracking is not uniform across CESUs, federal agencies, or CESU partners
 - Capture the project tracking and reporting where it already occurs, and increase tracking and information availability where it is decentralized and disparate.



Network CESU

- Current legal and institutional discussions surrounding the appropriate use of cooperative agreements (esp. DOI agencies)
 - Efforts are underway to clarify existing guidance in the Dept. Manual to address inconsistencies in the interpretation of authorities and appropriate context for using cooperative agreements (vs contracts and grants)