

THE ADMINISTRATION'S SETTLEMENT POLICY

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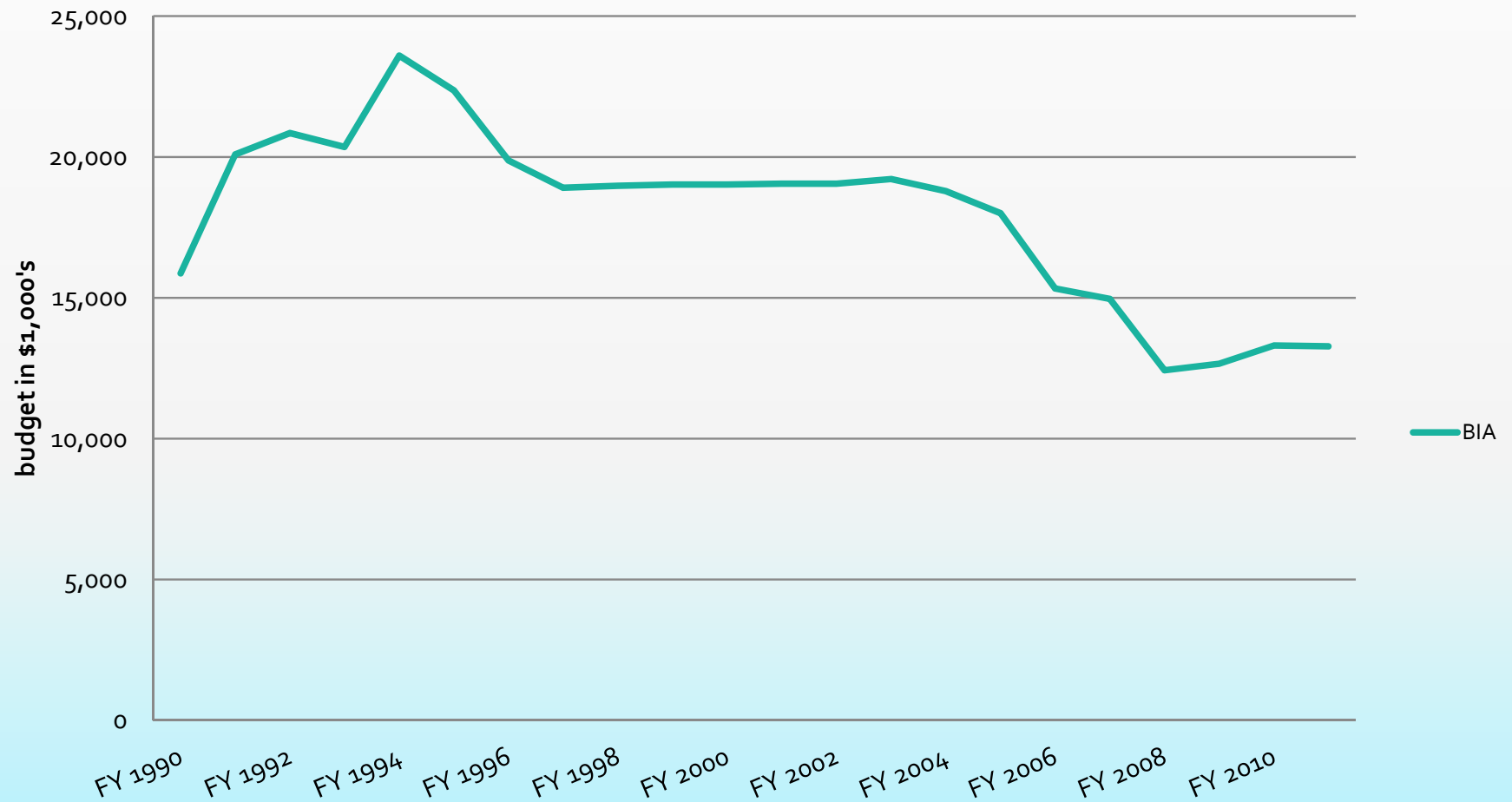
Symposium on the Settlement of Reserved Indian Water
Rights Claims

August 22, 2011

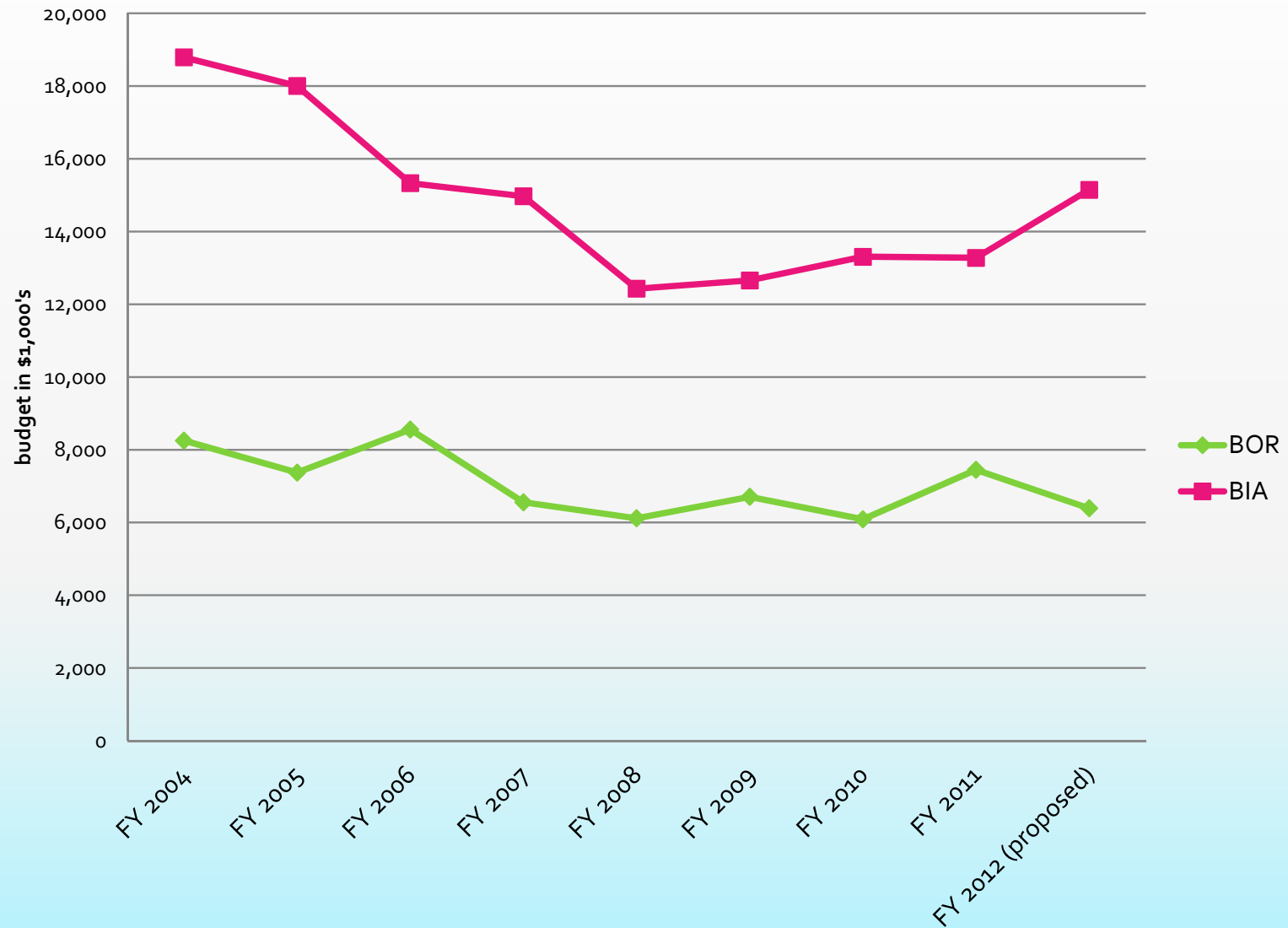
Interior Department Organization

- Working Group On Indian Water Settlements
- Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office
- Teams:
 - Assessment
 - Negotiation
 - Implementation
- Office of the Secretary, BIA, Reclamation, Solicitor, Fish and Wildlife

BIA Budget for Indian Water Rights Settlements



Reclamation/BIA Funding for Indian Water Settlements



Administration Policy Position

-- Testimony:

- U.S. shall participate in settlements **consistent with its trust responsibilities** to Indians;
- Indian tribes should receive **equivalent benefits** for rights which they, and the US as trustee, may release as part of the settlement;
- Indian tribes should **realize value** from confirmed water rights resulting from a settlement;
- **Settlements should contain appropriate cost-sharing proportionate to the benefits received by all parties benefiting from the settlement.**

-- Views letters:

Commitment to “work with Congress to identify and implement clear criteria for going forward with future settlements on issues including cost-sharing and eligible costs.”

-- Letters of Support:

- Crow
- Aamodt and Taos
- White Mountain Apache

Going Forward With Settlements

- Fully committed to continuing with settlements (only 26 completed to date)
- Need to leverage scarce Federal dollars with non-Federal contributions
- Continue dialog on parameters for determining appropriate Federal contribution