



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Funding Highlights:

- Provides \$12 billion in discretionary funding for the Department of the Interior, reflecting ongoing commitments to protect critical national landscapes, responsibly manage energy development on Federal lands and waters, and support Federal trust responsibilities to Native American Tribes and communities. This includes:
 - Launching an historic effort to revitalize the Nation's parks for the next century in commemoration of the National Park Service Centennial;
 - Proposing a dedicated source of long-term funding—reaching \$900 million in 2015—for Land and Water Conservation Fund programs to support land conservation and resource protection, in collaboration with Federal, State, and local partners;
 - Investing in the safety, reliability, and efficiency of America's water infrastructure and in conservation, reuse, and applied science to address the Nation's water supply challenges;
 - Supporting tribal priorities in Indian Country, including full funding for contract support costs and a new initiative to address high rates of poverty, substance abuse, and homelessness; and
 - Investing in science to support decision-making in managing natural resources and carrying out tribal trust responsibilities, including \$889 million for research and development.

Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative:

- Through the Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative, supports:
 - Full support for the National Parks Centennial Initiative, which will create thousands of jobs over three years and make America an even more attractive destination for travel and tourism;
 - Additional resources for the Department, especially the U.S. Geological Survey, to conduct scientific monitoring, research, and analysis that advances priorities such as energy development, ecological restoration, and climate resilience;
 - Enhancements in the climate resilience of landscapes, water resources, and other infrastructure; and

- o Economic development and educational investments in Indian Country to support tribal self-determination and nation-building.

Reforms:

- Supports a fundamental shift in wildfire funding to safeguard communities and ecosystems, improve the resilience of our Nation's forests and rangelands, and provide stable funding for wildfire suppression.
- Continues efforts to manage and promote the ecological sustainability and resilience of ecosystems on a landscape and watershed scale, such as the California Bay-Delta, the Everglades, the Great Lakes, Chesapeake Bay, and the Gulf Coast.
- Proposes oil and gas management reforms to generate \$2.5 billion in savings over 10 years, building on the Administration's efforts to encourage diligent development of Federal energy resources while improving the return to taxpayers from royalty reforms.
- Reforms oversight of mining on Federal lands and reduces the environmental impacts of coal and hardrock mining by dedicating and prioritizing funds to reclaim abandoned mines.

The Department of the Interior's (DOI's) mission is to protect America's natural resources and cultural heritage, manage development of energy and mineral resources on Federal lands and waters, provide scientific and other information about the Nation's natural resources, manage and develop water infrastructure, and honor trust responsibilities to American Indians and Alaska Natives and commitments to Insular areas. In support of this mission, the Budget provides \$12 billion for DOI, a three percent increase over the 2014 enacted level. The Budget continues the Administration's historic commitment to America's natural heritage by proposing mandatory funds for Land and Water Conservation Fund programs. This funding will provide the stability needed for agencies and States to make strategic, long-term investments in the Nation's natural infrastructure and outdoor economy to support jobs, preserve natural and cultural resources, bolster outdoor recreation opportunities, and protect wildlife. The Budget also includes legislative proposals that will save taxpayers more than \$2.7 billion over the next 10 years, including reforms to fees, royalties, and other payments related to oil, gas, coal, and other mineral development on Federal lands and waters.

Promotes Economic Growth by Investing in Natural, Cultural, and Energy Resources

Creates Jobs Through Conservation and Recreation. The America's Great Outdoors (AGO) initiative supports Federal, State, local, and tribal conservation efforts, while reconnecting Americans, particularly young people, to the outdoors. Investments for AGO programs support conservation and outdoor recreation activities nationwide that create and maintain millions of jobs, generate hundreds of millions of dollars in tax revenue, and spur billions in total national economic activity. 2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the landmark Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act, which authorizes the use of receipts from oil, gas, and other non-renewable resources to reinvest in conserving public lands. The Budget proposes full funding for LWCF programs in DOI and the Department of Agriculture (USDA). Starting in 2015, the Budget proposes to invest \$900 million annually, equal to the amount of receipts deposited in the LWCF each year. In 2015, \$575 million is proposed to conserve lands in or near national parks, refuges, forests, and other public lands, including collaborative LWCF

funds for DOI and the USDA's Forest Service to jointly and strategically conserve the most critical landscapes. Other AGO programs include \$325 million in grant programs that assist States, Tribes, local governments, landowners, private groups, and sportsmen in preserving wildlife habitat, wetlands, historic battlefields, regional parks, and the countless other sites that form the mosaic of the Nation's cultural and natural legacy.

Launches Historic Effort to Revitalize National Parks for the Next Century. For nearly 100 years, National Park Service (NPS) parks and historic sites have preserved and shared America's cultural and historical identity. These places represent America's unique history and draw tourists from across the United States and around the world. To help achieve the President's America's Great Outdoors goals, the Budget proposes to invest in an historic effort to upgrade and restore national parks, while engaging thousands of youth, veterans, and others and leveraging private donations to build a legacy for the second century of NPS. In particular, the Budget—including mandatory, discretionary, and Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative resources—will allow NPS to ensure that 1,700 (or 20 percent) of the highest priority park assets are restored to good condition. The effort creates thousands of jobs over three years, provides over 10,000 work and training opportunities to young people, and engages more than 265,000 volunteers in support of public lands.

Safeguards Communities and Ecosystems from Wildfire Damage. Fire is a natural occurrence that can be highly beneficial to landscapes when managed properly; however, population growth near forests and rangelands, past management practices, and a changing climate have increased wildfire risk and resulting costs. The Budget calls for a fundamental change in how wildfire suppression is funded to help reduce fire risk, manage landscapes more comprehensively and increase the resilience of the Nation's forests and rangelands and the communities that border them. The Budget supports congressional proposals to fund suppression of the most severe fire activity—including large fires that require

emergency response, are near urban areas, or for abnormally active fire seasons—as extraordinary costs that are outside the discretionary spending caps. Importantly, because this funding would not allow the total amounts available under existing cap adjustments to grow, it would not increase overall discretionary spending.

This new approach for funding suppression of catastrophic fires better safeguards non-suppression programs from transfers that have diminished their effectiveness in proactively addressing threats to communities and landscapes. This proposal allows for enhanced capabilities in programs such as the Forest Service's Integrated Resource Restoration Program, the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, and the Hazardous Fuels Program, as well as the Fuels Management and Resilient Landscapes programs in DOI. Since responsibility for improving community resilience to wildland rests with Federal, State, local, and tribal governments and homeowners, the Budget also targets funding for fuels management and certain State programs to communities that implement programs to reduce fire risk on non-Federal lands, including improved building standards for fire resiliency and defensible spaces.

Protects and Restores Water Resources and Infrastructure. The Budget invests in the safety, reliability, efficiency, and ecological sustainability of our water infrastructure, to ensure the continued delivery to millions of customers of water and power, which serves as a foundation for a healthy economy, especially in the arid Western United States. The Budget invests in implementation of Indian water rights settlements in support of Federal trust responsibilities to Tribes and in the protection and restoration of fragile aquatic ecosystems, such as California's Bay-Delta and the San Joaquin River, to ensure that such environmental treasures are available for future generations. These investments are made possible by limiting the study of new projects and construction of ongoing projects and emphasizing water reuse, recycling, and conservation programs, in partnership with States and others, over new construction.

Makes Public Lands Available for Clean Energy Infrastructure Projects. To enhance energy security and create green jobs in new industries, the Budget invests in core DOI renewable energy development programs, providing roughly \$95 million to review and permit new renewable energy projects on Federal lands and waters. These funds will allow DOI to continue progress toward its goal of permitting 20 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity and related transmission infrastructure by 2020 as part of the President's Climate Action Plan.

Continues Support for Responsible Development of the Nation's Oil and Gas Resources. The Budget proposes \$170 million and \$205 million, respectively, to fund the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, which share responsibility for overseeing development of oil and gas resources on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). The current OCS five-year leasing program will make more than 75 percent of estimated undiscovered technically recoverable oil and gas resources on the OCS available for development. Funding supports continued reforms to strengthen oversight of industry operations following the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, with an additional emphasis on ensuring the safe and responsible development of Arctic OCS resources.

The Budget also provides support for onshore energy permitting and oversight on Federal lands, with an 18 percent increase in discretionary and fee-based funding for the oil and gas program of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), relative to the 2014 enacted level. Combined with an extended and reformed permitting pilot office authority and ongoing administrative efforts, these resources will facilitate improved responsiveness to permit requests while strengthening oversight and enforcement of industry operations. BLM's costs would be partially offset through new inspection fees totaling \$48 million in 2015, requiring the onshore industry to bear a greater share of the cost of managing the program from which it benefits, just as the offshore industry currently does.

Strengthens Tribal Nations. The Administration strongly supports the principle of tribal self-determination and improved outcomes across Indian Country with a \$34 million increase over the 2014 enacted level for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and through implementation of the Executive Order establishing the White House Council on Native American Affairs. BIA fully funds contract support costs that Tribes incur from managing Federal programs. Recognizing the need to address high rates of poverty, substance abuse, and homelessness in Indian Country, the Administration proposes to implement a new initiative called the "Tiwahe" or Family Initiative. The Tiwahe Initiative would support an integrated approach to providing culturally-appropriate human services, with the goal of empowering Native American families through social programs, family stability, and strong tribal communities.

Fulfills Commitments to Insular Communities. The Administration supports fulfillment of the commitments made through the Compact of Free Association with the Government of the Republic of Palau, as agreed to in September 2010. The Budget proposes mandatory funding, as negotiated in the Compact of Free Association, to fund U.S. financial commitments, promote economic development and stability for Palau, ensure U.S. strategic security in the Pacific, and demonstrate U.S. resolve in honoring U.S. agreements to Insular communities.

Improves Oversight and Use of Federal Dollars

Reforms Federal Oil and Gas Management. The United States Treasury received over \$13 billion in 2013 from fees, royalties, and other payments related to oil and gas development on Federal lands and waters. A number of recent studies by the Government Accountability Office and DOI's Inspector General have found that taxpayers could earn a better return through policy changes and more rigorous oversight. The Budget proposes a package of legislative reforms to bolster administrative actions to reform the management of DOI's onshore and offshore oil

and gas programs, with a key focus on improving the return to taxpayers from the sale of these Federal resources and on improving transparency and oversight. Proposed statutory and administrative changes focus on advancing royalty reforms, encouraging diligent development of oil and gas leases, and improving revenue collection processes. Collectively, these reforms will generate roughly \$2.5 billion in net revenue to the Treasury over 10 years. Many States will also benefit from higher Federal revenue sharing payments as a result of these reforms.

Reforms Mining Operations and Reduces the Environmental Impacts of Mining. In order to increase safety and minimize environmental impacts, the Budget proposes an abandoned mine lands (AML) fee on hardrock mining, with receipts used by States, Tribes, and Federal agencies to restore the most hazardous hardrock AML sites on both public and private lands. For non-Federal lands, each State and Tribe would select its own priority projects according to national criteria, similar to how coal AML funds are allocated.

Eliminates Wasteful Spending and Provides a Fair Return to Taxpayers from Mineral Development. The Budget proposes a number of other actions that eliminate wasteful spending and ensure taxpayers receive a fair return from mining on Federal lands. This includes charging a royalty on select hardrock minerals—such as silver, gold, and copper—and terminating unwarranted payments to coal producing States and Tribes that no longer need funds to clean up abandoned coal mines.

Increases Investments in Science to Support Decision-Making. The Budget provides strong support for basic and applied science, including \$889 million for research and development, which is a seven percent increase over the 2014 enacted level. This funding supports scientific monitoring, research, and analysis to assist decision-making in natural resource and land management and in fulfilling the special trust responsibilities of DOI and other federally mandated programs. Specific activities include science needed to conduct energy permitting, ecosystem restoration and management, Earth observations—such as water and wildlife monitoring—and tribal natural resource management.