



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Highlights:

- The Department of the Interior (DOI) conserves and manages natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people, provides scientific and evidence-based information about America's natural resources and hazards, supports safe and responsible development of Federal energy resources, and honors the Nation's trust responsibilities and special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and U.S.-affiliated island communities to help them prosper.
- The Budget request for DOI prioritizes energy development programs, infrastructure improvements on public lands, and DOI-wide reorganization efforts. The Budget eliminates funding for unnecessary or duplicative programs while reducing funds for lower priority activities, including land acquisition and various grant programs.
- The Budget requests \$11.3 billion for DOI, a \$2.2 billion or 16-percent decrease from the 2017 enacted level. This funding level includes changes in mandatory programs.

The President's 2019 Budget:

DOI's mission affects the lives of all Americans. The Department protects and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage, manages development of energy and mineral resources on Federal lands and waters, provides scientific and other information about the Nation's natural resources, manages water infrastructure, honors trust responsibilities to American Indians and Alaska Natives, and fulfills commitments to Insular areas. The Budget reflects the Administration's commitment to promoting economic and energy security by developing domestic energy resources. These efforts put the safety and security of America first by reducing U.S. dependency on energy from foreign nations. The Budget also makes investments to improve public lands and water infrastructure, reorganize and reform Departmental operations, streamline administrative functions, improve public access to outdoor recreation, and uphold unique tribal trust responsibilities. At the same time, the Budget reflects the President's commitment to fiscal responsibility by eliminating unnecessary or low priority programs and reducing administrative overhead costs.

Strengthens America's Energy Security. The Budget increases funding for DOI programs that support safe and responsible development of energy on public lands and offshore waters. DOI has proposed an aggressive strategy for leasing offshore oil and gas under its Draft Proposed Program for 2019-2024. Onshore, the Administration is taking steps to initiate oil and gas leasing in

"It's important that the taxpayers and Tribes get the full and fair value of traditional and renewable energy produced on public lands and offshore areas."

Ryan Zinke
Secretary
September 1, 2017

the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which was recently authorized by the Congress. The Department will also continue to make new areas available for renewable energy development—both onshore and offshore—and will prioritize renewable project permitting consistent with industry demand. The Budget also maintains funding for scientific research and data collection to inform responsible energy and mineral development, while minimizing the environmental impacts of these activities. Combined with administrative reforms to streamline permitting processes, these efforts would provide industry with access to the energy

resources America needs, while ensuring that taxpayers receive a fair return from the development of these public resources.

Supports Historic Effort to Reorganize DOI. The Budget provides \$18 million to help initiate DOI's internal reform plan, which would move away from the current bureau and State-based regional system of management toward an integrated Federal land and water management approach organized around watersheds. This "one-agency model" approach proposes to improve cross-bureau collaboration, reduce duplication, and move resources closer to land management units. DOI's reform plan breaks silos among bureaus by creating a common regional structure, co-locating regional offices, and improving coordinated decision-making. On the whole, these efforts are expected to facilitate better management of important resources such as watersheds, wildlife corridors, trail systems, infrastructure assets, and recreational systems.

Launches Public Lands Infrastructure Fund. Interior manages an infrastructure asset portfolio with a replacement value exceeding \$300 billion, which includes buildings, housing, trails, roads, water systems, and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools. Many of these assets are deteriorating, with older assets becoming more expensive to repair and maintain in good condition. The Budget would establish a new Public Lands Infrastructure Fund to help pay for repairs and improvements in national parks, wildlife refuges, and at BIE schools, which have more than \$12 billion in deferred maintenance. The fund would be derived from 50 percent of incremental energy leasing receipts over 2018 Budget projections that are not otherwise allocated for other purposes. As DOI works to expand Federal energy development on Federal lands and waters, this initiative has the potential to generate up to \$18 billion over 10 years for parks and other public lands infrastructure. This investment would significantly improve the Nation's most visible and visited public facilities that support a multi-billion dollar outdoor recreation economy.

Invests in Preservation of National Park Service Assets for Future Generations. For over 100 years, the National Park Service (NPS) has preserved assets in parks and historic sites that represent America's unique history. The Budget provides \$257 million to help address the \$11 billion NPS deferred maintenance backlog. In conjunction with the mandatory funding provided by the Public Lands Infrastructure Fund, these investments would lead to measurable upgrades on NPS's highest priority assets.

Streamlines Permitting and Reviews. DOI administers several foundational environmental and historic preservation statutes and manages more than 20 percent of the Nation's lands, making it responsible for the review and permitting of actions affecting those responsibilities. The Budget commits to a better future by reducing inefficiencies in the environmental review and permitting processes, which would allow the American people to enjoy improved infrastructure sooner. For example, the Budget maintains core funding for Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species Act

consultations and related activities; these consultations help facilitate the delivery of infrastructure projects while ensuring the protection of imperiled species. The Budget also strengthens the Bureau of Land Management's ability to efficiently facilitate and administer development of energy transmission projects.

Improves DOI's Procurement of Goods and Services and Management of Administrative Functions. DOI will realize \$50 million in savings through consolidation and sharing of administrative services, such as acquisitions and human resources, and procurement reforms, including multi-agency "Best in Class" contracts that leverage the Federal Government's buying power to bring more value and efficiency to how taxpayer dollars are used.

Proposes a Comprehensive Solution to Wildfire Suppression Funding. The Budget responsibly funds 100 percent of the rolling 10-year average cost for wildfire suppression in the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior within discretionary budget caps. Similar to how unanticipated funding needs for other natural disasters are addressed, the Budget proposes a separate fund that would include an annual cap adjustment appropriation for wildfire suppression operations, in order to ensure that adequate resources are available to fight wildland fires, protect communities, and safeguard human lives during the most severe wildland fire seasons. In addition, the Administration believes that meaningful forest management reforms to strengthen our ability to restore the Nation's forests and improve their resilience to destructive wildfires should be part of any permanent solution.

Prioritizes Land Management Operations of the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management. The Budget streamlines operations and eliminates waste while providing the necessary resources for DOI to continue to protect and conserve America's public lands and beautiful natural resources, provide access to public lands for the next generation of outdoor enthusiasts, and ensure visitor safety. The Budget provides \$4 billion for land management operations.

Supports Tribal Sovereignty and Self-Determination across Indian Country. The Budget addresses Federal trust responsibilities and tribal needs related to education, social services, infrastructure, and stewardship of land, water, and other natural resources. The Budget prioritizes core funding and services that support tribal government operations, such as full funding for contract support costs. The Budget maintains programmatic eliminations proposed in the 2018 Budget, which reduced funding for more recent demonstration projects and initiatives that only serve a few Tribes, and eliminates additional programs that are not fundamental to the missions of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) or BIE.

Eliminates Unnecessary, Lower Priority, or Duplicative Programs. The Budget includes elimination of discretionary Abandoned Mine Land grants that overlap with existing mandatory grants, National Heritage Areas that are more appropriately funded locally, and National Wildlife Refuge fund payments to local governments that are duplicative of other payment programs.

Reduces Funding for Land Acquisition. The Budget continues the 2018 Budget proposal to reduce funding for land acquisitions, so that available resources can support existing lands and assets managed by DOI. The Budget reduces land acquisition funding to \$8 million, including balance cancellations, and would instead focus available discretionary funds on investing in and maintaining existing national parks, refuges, and public lands.

Supports Law Enforcement capabilities. DOI is the steward of over 600 million acres of public lands, including over 12 million acres on the United States-Mexico border. The Budget supports law enforcement efforts on the Nation's public lands to keep visitors and natural resources safe, including DOI's efforts to collaborate with other agencies supporting border security efforts. The Budget also

invests in the United States Park Police, who safeguard lives and protect America's national treasures. In addition, the Budget invests in Fish and Wildlife Service law enforcement capacity to combat illegal wildlife trafficking, in support of the President's Executive Order on combatting transnational criminal organizations.

Invests in Essential Science Programs. The Budget maintains funding for the Landsat 9 ground system, as well as research and data collection that informs sustainable energy and mineral development, responsible resource management, and natural hazard risk reduction.

Expands Access and Bolsters the Outdoor Recreation Economy. Hundreds of millions of people visit U.S. national parks, wildlife refuges, and other public lands each year to hunt, fish, hike, view wildlife, and participate in other outdoor recreation opportunities. Visitors to public lands spend money in local gateway regions, and these expenditures generate and support economic prosperity within these local economies. In addition, through the purchases of licenses and equipment—and associated excise taxes—sportsmen and women have generated billions of dollars to support conservation of wildlife and habitat. To better serve these visitors, the Budget supports expanded public access to lands and waters administered by DOI. The Budget also invests in increased access to encourage sportsmen and women conservationists, veterans, minorities, and underserved communities that traditionally have low participation in outdoor recreation activities. To further boost hunting opportunities, the Budget invests \$34 million in North American Wetlands Conservation Act grants, a program that finances conservation of wetlands and associated uplands habitat to benefit waterfowl.

"Hunting and fishing is a cornerstone of the American tradition and hunters and fishers of America are the backbone of land and wildlife conservation"

Ryan Zinke
Secretary
September 15, 2017

Invests in Water Resources and Infrastructure. The Budget invests in the safe, reliable, and efficient management of water resources throughout the United States. The Budget requests \$1 billion for the Bureau of Reclamation. The Budget does not propose any new starts for the Bureau of Reclamation, but rather focuses resources on operating, maintaining, and rehabilitating existing infrastructure. Through the Bureau of Reclamation and BIA, the Budget requests \$172 million for the implementation of enacted Indian water rights settlements in support of Federal trust responsibilities to Tribes. The Budget also invests \$179 million in water-related science, monitoring, research, and development to better understand the water resources challenges facing the Nation, and develop new technologies to respond to those challenges.