



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

The Department of the Interior (DOI) conserves and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people. The President's 2023 Budget for DOI invests in climate change mitigation and adaptation, honors commitments to tribal nations, supports development in U.S. Territories and freely associated states, and funds reclamation and resilience work that ensures healthy lands and waters and creates good-paying jobs.

The Budget requests \$17.5 billion in discretionary funding for DOI, a \$2.8 billion or 19.3-percent increase from the 2021 enacted level, excluding amounts requested for Contract Support Costs and Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 Section 105(l) leases, which the Budget proposes to shift from discretionary to mandatory funding. Resources provided through the 2023 Budget complement major investments in wildfire management, tribal programs, methane emissions reduction, abandoned mine land reclamation, western water infrastructure, and ecosystem restoration through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law).

The President's 2023 Budget:

- **Strengthens Climate Resilience for Communities and Ecosystems.** As steward for 20 percent of the Nation's lands and waters and with a primary responsibility to uphold the Nation's commitments to American Indians and Alaska Natives, DOI plays an integral role in addressing the climate crisis through strengthened conservation partnerships, including the Administration's America the Beautiful Initiative, and science-based ecosystem management. The Budget invests \$5 billion in climate adaptation and resilience, including for several priorities listed below, to mitigate the impacts of climate change—such as drought, wildfire and severe storms—on America's communities, lands, waters, and wildlife. The Budget also sustains funding for key conservation and ecosystem management initiatives, including the Civilian Climate Corps, alongside a historic \$1.4 billion investment in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for ecosystem restoration across America.
- **Honors Trust and Treaty Responsibilities to Tribal Communities through Robust Program Funding.** The Budget makes the largest annual investment in tribal nations in history, reflecting input received from the first Government-wide tribal consultation on the development of the President's Budget. With \$4.5 billion for DOI's tribal programs, more than \$1 billion above the 2021 enacted level, investments would support public safety and justice, social services, climate resilience, and educational needs to uphold Federal trust responsibilities and advance equity for Native communities. This includes a \$156 million

increase to support construction work at seven Bureau of Indian Education schools, providing quality facilities for culturally-appropriate education with high academic standards, as well as \$7 million for the Indian Boarding School Initiative, which takes preliminary steps to address the injustices of past Federal Indian boarding school policy. The Budget also includes \$632 million in Tribal Public Safety and Justice funding at DOI, which collaborates closely with the Department of Justice, including on continued efforts to address the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons. The Budget also proposes to reclassify Contract Support Costs and Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 Section 105(l) leases as mandatory spending, providing certainty for tribal communities in meeting these ongoing needs through dedicated funding sources. The Budget further proposes to provide mandatory funding to the Bureau of Reclamation for operation and maintenance of previously enacted Indian Water Rights Settlements, and the Administration is interested in working with the Congress on an approach to provide a mandatory funding source for future settlements. The Budget also complements Bipartisan Infrastructure Law investments to address climate resilience needs in tribal communities.

- **Advances Climate Science.** The Budget invests \$375 million at DOI to advance understanding of the impacts of climate change, unlock new opportunities to reduce climate risk through innovative mitigation and adaptation research, measure and monitor greenhouse gas emissions and sinks on Federal lands, and ensure that coastal, fire-prone, and other particularly vulnerable communities have accurate and accessible information to allow them to better respond to the climate crisis. The Budget also supports the development of a Federal climate data portal that would provide the public with accessible information on historical and projected climate impacts, inform decision-making, and strengthen community climate resilience.
- **Mitigates the Risk of Catastrophic Wildfires.** The Budget invests \$325 million in Hazardous Fuels Management and Burned Area Rehabilitation programs to help reduce the risk and severity of wildfires, and restore lands that were devastated by catastrophic fire over the last several years. This funding complements the \$878 million for hazardous fuels management and \$325 million for burned area rehabilitation projects provided through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
- **Invests in the Wildland Firefighting Workforce.** Protecting communities, ecosystems, and infrastructure from wildfire requires a resilient and reliable Federal workforce. The Budget includes \$477 million, an increase of \$130 million over the 2021 enacted level, to ensure that no Federal firefighter will make less than \$15 an hour, to increase the Federal firefighting workforce, and to support these men and women with competitive compensation. This funding is further supported by \$120 million made available in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to address firefighting workforce needs.
- **Increases Drought Resilience.** The Budget helps to ensure that all communities across the Nation have access to a resilient and reliable water supply by investing in water conservation, development of desalination technologies, and water recycling and reuse projects. In addition, nearly \$1.7 billion provided through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for 2023, the Budget invests over \$675 million in Western water resource infrastructure and to provide potable water to rural areas, serving both tribal and non-tribal communities. The Budget also provides funding to address the ongoing drought in the western United States, including funding to implement the Drought Contingency Plans to conserve water in the Colorado River System, which is at historically low levels.

- **Promotes Racial Justice and Equity.** The Budget supports DOI's ongoing work to advance racial justice and more equitably deliver services to all Americans with discrete investments in each bureau. The Budget provides over \$3 billion to programs covered under the Justice40 initiative, such as tribal housing improvements, wildlife conservation grants, and energy infrastructure development in insular communities, which ensures that at least 40 percent of the overall benefits from certain Federal investments are delivered to disadvantaged communities. Moreover, the Budget includes a \$48 million initiative to build a more equitable National Park System (NPS). Through this initiative, DOI would expand operations at parks that preserve and tell the story of historically underrepresented and marginalized groups, further integrate tribal viewpoints into park management, address transportation barriers to parks from underserved communities, and improve park accessibility for visitors and employees with disabilities.
- **Accelerates Renewable Energy Development on Public Lands.** The Budget includes \$254 million, an increase of \$151 million from the 2021 enacted level, to accelerate and expand activities that support economic development and the creation of thousands of good-paying jobs through clean energy deployment on public lands and offshore waters. Funding would support the leasing, planning, and permitting of solar, wind and geothermal energy projects, and associated transmission infrastructure that would help mitigate climate change impacts and meet the Administration's goal of deploying 30 gigawatts of offshore wind capacity by 2030.
- **Creates Jobs Remediating and Reclaiming Abandoned Wells and Mines.** The Budget provides over \$321 million to remediate orphaned oil and gas wells and reclaim abandoned mine lands on Federal and non-Federal lands. The funding complements the \$16 billion provided in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for orphaned well remediation and abandoned mine reclamation, and would help create good union jobs, mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and ultimately allow for more productive land uses.
- **Rebuilds Critical Capacity.** The Budget rebuilds core functions and capabilities across DOI, including science capacity at the U.S. Geological Survey, and land management operations of the NPS, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management.

