



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

The Department of the Interior (DOI) conserves and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage. The President's 2024 Budget for DOI: honors commitments to tribal nations; combats climate change and protects environmental resources by investing in ecosystem restoration, wildfire management, and public land resilience; enhances programs that advance racial and economic justice; supports development in U.S. Territories and freely associated states; and funds reclamation and climate resilience work that ensures healthy lands and waters and creates good-paying jobs.

The Budget requests \$18.8 billion in discretionary budget authority for 2024, a \$1.6 billion or 9.3-percent increase from the 2023 enacted level, including 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. The 2024 Budget complements historic investments in wildfire management, tribal programs, ecosystem restoration, national park operations, western water infrastructure, and abandoned mine land reclamation provided in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act.

### The President's 2024 Budget:

- **Invests in Tribal Communities to Honor Trust and Treaty Responsibilities.** Building on feedback from extensive tribal consultations, the Budget provides historic increases for a range of key tribal programs. The Budget invests \$4.7 billion for DOI's tribal programs, \$690 million above the 2023 enacted level, to support public safety and justice, social services, and educational needs to uphold Federal trust responsibilities and advance equity for Native communities. This includes \$717 million in Tribal Public Safety and Justice funding at DOI, an \$86 million increase over the 2023 enacted level, to support pressing public safety needs in Indian Country and continue efforts to address the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons. The Budget also includes: a \$28 million increase for Native Language Revitalization grants; ongoing support for climate resilience; a \$61 million increase over the 2023 enacted level for education programs across the Bureau of Indian Education's 183 elementary and secondary schools, and 33 tribal colleges, universities, and post-secondary schools; and a \$148 million increase in education construction to support the replacement of seven schools and facilities. To strengthen tribal land management, the Budget includes \$12 million for a new Bureau of Indian Affairs program that would support tribal land acquisition for conservation and outdoor recreation, and promote tribal sovereignty through tribal co-stewardship. 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's investments complement those made through the

Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to address critical needs in tribal communities for infrastructure and climate adaptation. In recognition of tribal nations' legacy of natural resources stewardship, the Budget supports efforts to advance tribally-led studies of the feasibility of reintroducing salmon populations in the Upper Columbia River.

- **Commits to Tribal Water Rights Settlements Funding.** Providing a stable, dedicated funding source for tribal water rights settlements is crucial to ensuring that tribal communities have safe, reliable water supplies to improve public and environmental health and support economic opportunity. To build on investments provided in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Budget provides \$2.8 billion in mandatory funding to the Indian Water Rights Settlement Completion Fund, with \$2.5 billion to cover the costs of enacted and future water rights settlements and \$340 million for operations and maintenance costs associated with enacted water settlements.
- **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 \$5.7 billion in climate adaptation and resilience, which would 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 youth corps programs—alongside a historic \$1.7 billion investment provided in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for ecosystem restoration across America and more than \$5 billion provided by the Inflation Reduction Act to address climate change.
- **Increases Drought Resilience.** The Budget helps ensure communities across the West have access to a resilient and reliable water supply by investing in rural water projects, water conservation, development of desalination technologies, and water recycling and reuse projects. The Budget complements the nearly \$1.7 billion provided in 2024 for western water infrastructure through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, as well as the nearly \$4.6 billion that was provided by the Inflation Reduction Act for drought mitigation and domestic water supply projects through the Bureau of Reclamation. The Budget provides funding to address the ongoing drought in the western United States, including funding for WaterSMART, Central Valley Project drought activities, and implementation funding for the Drought Contingency Plans to conserve water in the Colorado River System, which is at historically low levels.
- **Invests in the Wildland Firefighting Workforce.** The Budget ensures that no Federal firefighter would make less than \$15 an hour and invests in the wildland firefighting workforce at DOI and the Department of Agriculture (USDA) through a new comprehensive and equitable compensation structure. The Budget also increases the size of the wildland firefighting workforce at DOI and USDA and supports additional mental and physical health services for that workforce. Together, these efforts would help address long-standing recruitment and retention challenges. These investments, totaling \$139 million over the comparable 2023 enacted level for DOI, would build upon the historic reforms in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and ensure that the workforce receives the enhanced support it needs to continue meeting evolving mission demands, as both the frequency and intensity of catastrophic wildfires are expected to increase due to climate change.

- **Mitigates the Risk of Catastrophic Wildfires.** The Budget invests \$314 million in DOI’s Hazardous Fuels Management and Burned Area Rehabilitation programs to help reduce the risk and severity of wildfires and restore lands devastated by catastrophic fire. This funding complements the \$878 million for hazardous fuels management and \$325 million for burned area rehabilitation projects provided through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The Budget also invests \$7 million in a new integrated drought and fire science effort at the U.S. Geological Survey, which would help mitigate wildfire risk across the Nation.
- **Increases Access to Nature and Parks.** An estimated 100 million Americans do not have an accessible park within a 10-minute walk of their home. Communities of color and low-income communities have disproportionately less access to Nature’s benefits, such as clean water, clean air, and open spaces for recreation. The Budget allocates \$135 million to the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program to develop high-quality recreation opportunities in economically disadvantaged urban communities. The Budget also provides \$3.8 billion for the National Park Service, \$289 million over the 2023 enacted level. In addition, the Budget includes a new \$32 million initiative to build a more equitable National Park System, including investments to: expand tribal co-stewardship of national parks; address transportation barriers between parks and underserved communities; improve park accessibility for visitors and employees with disabilities; and stand up the recently established African American Burial Grounds Preservation Program. The Budget also includes a new \$10 million initiative for Increasing Representation in Our Public Lands, which would support recent or potential new designations that preserve important places and tell the stories of those that have been historically underrepresented.
- **Accelerates Clean Energy Development on Public Lands.** The Budget includes \$181 million, an increase of \$70 million from the 2023 enacted level, to accelerate the deployment of clean energy on public lands and waters, spurring economic development and creating thousands of good-paying jobs. Funding would support the leasing, planning, and permitting of solar, wind, and geothermal energy projects, and associated transmission infrastructure that would help mitigate the impacts of climate change and meet the Administration’s goal of deploying 30 gigawatts of offshore wind capacity by 2030 and 25 gigawatts of clean energy capacity on public lands by 2025.
- **Creates Jobs Remediating and Reclaiming Abandoned Wells and Mines.** The Budget provides \$311 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 coal mine reclamation, and would create good union jobs and restore degraded lands and waters to allow for more productive uses. The Administration is committed to the responsible and sustainable development of America’s public resources. Consistent with the need to develop a domestic critical minerals supply chain, the Department led an Interagency Working Group to review hardrock mine permitting and oversight on Federal lands, and will implement its recommendations on best practices and actions on public lands to increase transparency and ensure that mining operations adhere to strong social, environmental, and labor standards.
- **Advances Climate Science.** The Budget invests \$366 million at DOI to better understand the impacts of climate change, identify innovative mitigation and adaptation opportunities, and measure and monitor greenhouse gas emissions and sinks on Federal lands. 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.

- **Increases Permitting Capacity.** The Budget invests in environmental permitting programs to expedite delivery of new and modernized infrastructure. The Budget also proposes to expand existing transfer authority by enabling Federal agencies to transfer funds provided under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries to improve efficiencies and increase capacity for environmental planning and consultation. Together with existing law, this proposal would accelerate and improve environmental reviews in support of responsible development of priority infrastructure projects and energy solutions.
- **Invests in Addressing the Biodiversity Crisis.** The Budget increases biodiversity and halts nature loss by providing targeted increases for key biodiversity programs including funding for: Endangered Species Act implementation; the National Wildlife Refuge System; migratory birds, fish, and aquatic conservation; and international conservation. The Budget includes \$20 million for the Coastal Program and \$80 million to support the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, a flagship program for voluntary conservation on private lands—a key focus of the America the Beautiful Initiative. This funding represents an increase of \$26 million from the 2023 enacted level and complements a \$1.7 billion cross-agency investment provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for fish passage projects to restore healthy aquatic ecosystems, and significant investments in the Inflation Reduction Act for endangered species recovery.