



## DEPARTMENT *of the* INTERIOR

The Budget proposes to restore excellency to the stewardship of the Nation's natural resources and American cultural heritage. The Budget drives efficient Federal land management, accelerates energy and mineral development, and strengthens State and local roles in resource stewardship. The Budget proposes to create both a new Presidential Capital Stewardship Program and a Great Salt Lake Restoration Program, unify Federal wildland fire agencies into the U.S. Wildland Fire Service (USWFS), and consolidate Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) work within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). To honor Federal trust responsibilities to American Indians and Alaska Natives, the Budget provides funding for law enforcement, energy development, education, and other programs that support tribal communities.

The Budget requests \$15.9 billion in discretionary budget authority for the Department of the Interior (DOI) for 2027, a \$2.3 billion or 12.9-percent decrease from the 2026 enacted level. This decrease accounts for notional adjustments to reflect the unification of Federal wildland fire responsibilities into DOI for comparison purposes.

### **THE PRESIDENT'S 2027 BUDGET:**

#### ***Investments***

- **Presidential Capital Stewardship Program.** As the capital of the greatest Nation in the history of the world, Washington, D.C. should showcase beautiful, clean, and safe public spaces. However, many historic park features and public-facing infrastructure throughout the city show signs of decay, years of heavy public use, and inadequate maintenance. Under the President's leadership, the Administration is committed to making Washington, D.C.—a once-great city—safe, clean, and beautiful again. The Budget includes a \$10 billion mandatory fund to establish the Presidential Capital Stewardship Program within the National Park Service (NPS) to coordinate, plan, and execute targeted, priority construction and beautification projects in and around Washington, D.C. Once complete, these projects would improve safety and accessibility, rehabilitate historic buildings and landscapes, and enhance architectural grandeur so that Americans can once again be proud of the Nation's capital. In addition, this generational investment in the restoration of Washington, D.C. would drive economic development in the city, increase visitation from across the world, and lower future infrastructure lifecycle costs.
- **U.S. Wildland Fire Service (USWFS).** The legacy approach to Federal wildland fire risk mitigation and response is fractured and has led to significant coordination and cost inefficiencies, which endanger lives,

infrastructure, and national treasures. For example, the 2025 fire season was the costliest on record, despite average fire activity. DOI is leading by example to improve program effectiveness—the Department has already unified its four firefighting bureaus into a single USWFS. Consistent with Executive Order (E.O.) 14308, “Empowering Commonsense Wildfire Prevention and Response,” the Budget would further reform Federal wildland fire mitigation and suppression responsibilities by unifying national incident response and preparedness programs—which currently are split across Department of Agriculture (USDA) and DOI—into the USWFS at DOI. The unified USWFS would streamline Federal wildfire suppression policy, resources, response, risk mitigation efforts, and coordination with non-Federal partners to combat the wildfire crisis. Further, the Budget supports a new Wildfire Intelligence Center that would centralize and modernize fire intelligence and technology.

- **Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) Permitting.** The Budget consolidates these two programs into a single program housed within DOI to streamline regulatory oversight and ensure a consistent approach to the management of protected species. Currently, FWS and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are jointly responsible for administering the ESA and the MMPA, which has historically resulted in unnecessary red tape, increased costs, and delayed approvals, and produced inconsistent outcomes for permittees.
- **U.S. Park Police.** The Budget sustains funding levels for the increased presence of the U.S. Park Police in Washington, D.C., in line with E.O. 14333, “Declaring a Crime Emergency in the District of Columbia,” and the necessity of continuing to make Washington, D.C. safe and beautiful. The Budget also continues strong support for law enforcement across tribal and Federal lands, including along the southern border.
- **The Great Salt Lake.** The Budget includes \$1 billion to restore and protect the Great Salt Lake, which is a critical economic and ecological asset for the Nation. The lake is currently under threat and requires a comprehensive Federal program, led by DOI, to ensure its long-term sustainability and to support the robust economic and ecological contributions that the lake makes to Utah, the region, and the Nation. The Department will work with partners, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, USDA, and the Environmental Protection Agency, to make investments to improve water flows into and within the lake, restore ecosystems, remove invasive species, and address toxins in the lakebed outside of any active environmental remediation sites. Together, these investments would ensure the Great Salt Lake continues to support global aquaculture, serves as a domestic source of critical minerals, and drives economic activity in Utah and beyond.
- **Public Lands.** DOI has struggled for years to adequately manage more than 500 million acres of existing Federal lands, including the national parks and wildlife refuges—to say nothing of continued land acquisition. Vast forest and range landscapes are in a degraded condition, and the exploding deferred maintenance backlog now exceeds \$40 billion. To provide a better experience at the Nation’s crown jewel parks for American citizens, the NPS would implement a surcharge on international visitors at the most visited parks that would provide hundreds of millions of dollars to maintain parks around the Nation. The Budget proposes to reauthorize the Legacy Restoration Fund, which funds deferred maintenance on Federal lands, at \$1.9 billion per year for five years. The Budget prioritizes the use of Land and Water Conservation Fund resources to acquire conservation easements on State, local, or private lands, rather than continuing the irresponsible and fiscally unsustainable expansion of the Federal estate.

### ***Program Cuts and Eliminations***

- **Bureau of Reclamation.** The Budget refocuses Reclamation on its core missions of maintaining assets that provide safe, reliable, and efficient management of water resources throughout the western United States. The Working Families Tax Cut Act also included \$1 billion for construction of Reclamation water storage and water conveyance projects. For example, the Budget:

- Eliminates funding for WaterSmart grants for local ecosystem restoration projects, climate studies, and water recycling plants;
  - Focuses Reclamation on its mission of managing water in the western United States and ends its foray into woke projects like lining water canals with solar panels at the taxpayers' expense; and
  - Terminates funding for programs that support frivolous local projects like installing artificial turf at schools and community parks.
- **“Green New Scam” Programs.** The Budget eliminates subsidies for programs that proliferate climate radicalism and ineffective technologies that harm the American consumer, preventing further misuse of taxpayer money. The Budget saves taxpayers \$45 million by eliminating DOI’s “renewable energy” programs, which facilitate unreliable energy to the detriment of American consumers, businesses, and communities. The Budget also eliminates funding for woke climate programs and bureaucratic bloat. The Budget refocuses the Department on critical minerals development and fulfilling the President’s energy dominance agenda by opening up more Federal lands and waters for oil, gas, and clean coal development. For instance, the Budget:
    - Eradicates wasteful renewable energy programs, helping put a stop to disastrous offshore wind energy projects that harm hardworking coastal communities, precious wildlife, and American military readiness;
    - Eliminates the U.S. Geological Survey’s Ecosystems Mission Area, which has supported the woke climate agenda, provided funding for climate research to weaponized universities, and distracted the bureau from its core energy and minerals work; and
    - Eliminates funding for Bureau of Land Management programs that support woke environmental group priorities, such as land use restrictions that impede access for much needed energy development that would help address the National Energy Emergency, as declared in E.O. 14156, “Declaring a National Energy Emergency.”
  - **Duplicative and Wasteful Programs.** The Budget redirects available resources toward commonsense uses for the hard-earned dollars of every American. Over years of expansion without oversight, duplicative programs and funding streams have proliferated. The Budget puts an end to this bureaucratic bloat, eliminating over 40 programs already covered through State, local, and private sources, as well as permanent funding provided for similar purposes. Further, these programs’ projects are often of local, rather than national, significance, and are not directly tied to maintaining national parks or public lands. These projects are better suited for management at the State and local level. For example, the Budget:
    - Eliminates multiple, non-essential FWS grant programs that fund conservation of species already well managed by States, Tribes, and other countries, including apes, tigers, and elephants in Africa and Asia. The domestic programs are also duplicative of large amounts of mandatory funding;
    - Continues to eliminate wasteful funding that goes to non-Federal entities and no longer provides tax-payer funds to woke and ideological projects such as:
      - \$75,000 to “DC Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer resources,” including dance parties;
      - A 151-page context statement to document “Colonial Beliefs About Queer Identity”; and
      - The history of Southwest Washington, D.C. lesbian bars.
    - Eliminates the Indian Guaranteed Loan program, which is duplicative of several other programs across the Federal Government that provide loans to small businesses. 🦋

