

**STATEMENT OF  
DAVID BERNHARDT  
SECRETARY  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BEFORE THE  
HOUSE INTERIOR AND ENVIRONMENT  
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
May 7, 2019**

Chair McCollum, Ranking Member Joyce, and members of the Subcommittee, I am here today in my role as the Secretary of the Interior.

Since the President's 2020 Budget was transmitted to Congress on March 11, 2019, the Subcommittee has held four hearings on the Department's FY 2020 Budget Request, in addition to outside witness hearings, which include the following.

On March 26, 2019, the Department's Principal Deputy for Policy, Management and Budget, Scott Cameron, appeared before the Subcommittee and provided the Departmental perspective on the budget. This was followed by three additional hearings covering nine Interior bureaus. A panel of witnesses including P. Daniel Smith, Deputy Director, National Park Service; Margaret Everson, Principal Deputy Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and Jim Reilly, Director, U.S. Geological Survey; testified on the FY 2020 budget before the Subcommittee on April 3, 2019.

On April 4, 2019, Brian Steed, Deputy Director for Policy & Programs, Bureau of Land Management; Walter Cruickshank, Acting Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management; and Scott Angelle, Director, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement; also testified in support of their specific bureau budgets.

Most recently, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Tara Katuk Mac Lean Sweeney, joined by Johnna Blackhair, Acting Deputy Bureau Director – Trust Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Tony L. Dearman, Director, Bureau of Indian Education, testified in support of the FY 2020 Budget for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Indian Education, and the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians.

The Subcommittee has heard and discussed the specific details of Interior's FY 2020 budget submission and priorities at these hearings and, as part of my written statement, I am including copies of the statements submitted by the Department's representatives at those hearings.

I was confirmed on April 11, 2019, and I appreciate your invitation to join you today to discuss my priorities for the Department as Secretary of the Interior.

The President has been clear in his direction to and priorities for the Department. With the overarching goal to support continued economic growth and prosperity, he has expressed his vision to the Department through a series of Executive Orders and Presidential Memoranda, including:

- EO 13781 Comprehensive Plan for Reorganizing the Executive Branch;
- EO 13783 Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth;
- EO 13792 Review of Designations Under the Antiquities Act;
- EO 13795 Implementing an America-First Offshore Energy Strategy;
- EO 13807 Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure Projects;
- EO 13817 A Federal Strategy to Ensure Secure and Reliable Supplies of Critical Minerals;
- EO 13840 Ocean Policy to Advance the Economic, Security, and Environmental Interests of the United States; and
- EO 13855 Promoting Active Management of America's Forests, Rangelands, and other Federal Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk.

These documents are the foundation of the Department's policy objectives since the early days of this Administration.

As Secretary, I will work hard to effectuate the President's vision and to strike the right balance of protection and sustainable use of resources in a way that will provide conservation stewardship, enhance the safety of our communities, increase energy security, and allow America to prosper. At the same time, I will strive to meet the Administration's broader economic objective to manage Federal spending with restraint.

I will also continue to move forward with the Department's reorganization, including efforts to relocate some operations out West, closer to where assets, acres, and customers are located.

Transformation of the Department's ethics program will remain a key priority for me as Secretary, and I have directed the Department's Designated Agency Ethics Official to begin the process of consolidating the disparate ethics programs within the Department into one comprehensive Departmental program to create a better functioning and more robust program. As we work through this process we will be submitting any necessary reprogramming notice to the Committee in the near future.

The Department has grappled for many years to address deteriorating infrastructure across our bureaus and maintenance backlogs at our national parks, national wildlife refuges, and Bureau of Indian Education schools. I am committed to working with Congress to develop a legislative solution to address these important infrastructure needs.

Finally, the Great Lakes are important resources to the Nation and important assets to many of your constituents. I agree with the President that Great Lakes restoration is an important priority, and it will be at the Department.

Chair McCollum, this concludes my statement. I look forward to working with you in the coming months, and I am happy to respond to any questions that you may have.

Attachments to the Statement of Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt

Before the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior and Environment

Includes Agency Witness Testimony on the FY 2020 President's Budget for the Department of the Interior from the following:

Scott Cameron, Principal Deputy for Policy, Management and Budget  
P. Daniel Smith, Deputy Director, National Park Service  
Margaret Everson, Principal Deputy Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Jim Reilly, Director, U.S. Geological Survey  
Brian Steed, Deputy Director for Policy and Programs, Bureau of Land Management  
Walter Cruickshank, Acting Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
Scott Angell, Director, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement  
Tara Katuk Mac Lean Sweeney, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs

**STATEMENT OF SCOTT CAMERON, PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR POLICY,  
MANAGEMENT, AND BUDGET FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BEFORE THE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
ON THE PRESIDENT'S 2020 BUDGET REQUEST  
MARCH 26, 2019**

Chair McCollum, Ranking Member Joyce, and Members of the Subcommittee, I am pleased to appear before you today to discuss the President's 2020 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior. Interior's 2020 budget totals \$12.6 billion, of which \$11.5 billion supports activities within the jurisdiction of this Subcommittee. The 2020 request reflects the Administration's strong support for Interior's important missions and is \$926.2 million above the President's 2019 request for Interior. Thanks to the work of this Subcommittee, in fiscal year 2020 Interior will have access to additional funding in the event of a severe wildland fire season, through disaster cap authority.

**2020 BUDGET PRIORITIES**

Interior's 2020 budget reflects the Administration's commitment to strike the right balance of protection and sustainable use of resources in a way that provides proper conservation stewardship of our land and resources, enhances the safety of our communities, increases energy security, and allows America to prosper. Our budget invests to grow jobs and prosperity, promote safe and secure communities, strengthen America's energy security, meet Interior's Trust responsibilities, and continue to reorganize the Department of the Interior.

At the same time, this budget meets the Administration's broader economic objective to manage Federal spending with restraint. The request prioritizes delivery of Interior's core operating missions – the things the American public relies on us to do. We've focused our resources to take care of the assets we have, expand public access to our lands, and invest where Interior can make a significant contribution to national objectives.

Complementing our funding request, the President's 2020 budget request features two significant legislative proposals to address wildfire risk through forest management reforms, and to rebuild America's public lands infrastructure.

**PROMOTING JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**

The Trump Administration is committed to economic growth and prosperity. Our 2020 budget supports working lands, good-paying American jobs, common sense regulatory reform, expanded opportunities for the outdoor recreation economy, and increased revenue to States, Tribes, and local communities. Interior balances access for Americans to enjoy their public lands, managing these special places and natural resources for generations to come and the development needed to serve the public and fuel local economies.

Of Interior's \$12.6 billion 2020 budget request, \$4.9 billion supports the land management activities of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the National Park Service (NPS), and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). These operating funds support the primary activities to meet

the unique resource mission of each bureau. This funding supports resource development, day-to-day operations, and conservation stewardship activities for Interior's great places; and fulfills the Department's Federal wildlife responsibilities.

America's Federal lands and waters contain tremendous job-creating assets, supporting more than 1.8 million jobs in energy, recreation, grazing, conservation, and hospitality. Dedicated stewardship of these resources and partnerships with communities bordering the public lands drive job opportunities and economic growth.

Interior's resource management programs directly support important jobs across America. The budget invests \$92.0 million in the BLM Rangeland Management program, which supports western ranching families, by managing nearly 18,000 livestock grazing permits and leases on the public lands. The BLM public domain forestry and Oregon and California grant lands programs support jobs and local economies through timber and timber product sales. The 2020 budget includes \$107.2 million for these programs to support timber sales and forest management projects. Consistent with the targets established under Executive Order 13855, the request supports an estimated 280 million board feet in timber sales in 2021, continuing annual increases from the 2018 production level of 226 million board feet.

The 2020 budget includes \$12.3 million for BLM's Other Mineral Resources Management program which manages development of leasable minerals. Funding in 2020 will be used to streamline program activities, expedite processing of applications, and facilitate more timely inspection and enforcement actions.

The U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) mineral resources program works to understand the fundamental science and identify supplies of mineral resources to support land use decisions across the United States. This program directly supports the Administration's efforts to strengthen America's energy and critical minerals security as outlined in Executive Order 13817. The program is working to identify domestic supplies of 35 critical minerals needed for manufacturing and technology innovation. The 2020 budget for the USGS includes \$30.3 million for critical minerals work. This investment will provide the advanced topographic, geologic, and geophysical data needed to locate U.S. critical mineral resources to inform management of private-sector domestic development, reduce dependence on foreign sources, and support job creation and technological innovation.

To increase U.S. economic strength, the Administration has challenged Federal agencies to reduce the regulatory burden on Americans. We are working to ensure our regulations reflect advances in science and technology and foster innovation and economic growth. We have also established standard parameters to reduce page length and review times, internal processes, and applied project management practices to improve Interior's National Environmental Policy Act review and clearance activities. As part of this effort, we are also working to revise outdated processes and leverage technology to deliver better service. The 2020 budget invests in improvements to make it easier to do business with Interior, including more timely processing of coal, oil and gas, grazing management, communications infrastructure, and surface mining reclamation plan reviews.

Our efforts to improve Interior’s review and permitting activities directly contribute to a stronger infrastructure in the United States. Interior reviews and approves permits for Federal and private sector uses of Interior lands, including energy and minerals development, pipelines, and transmission infrastructure. The 2020 budget requests \$107.5 million for planning and consultation, which includes support for the FWS to perform reviews required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and thereby avoid unnecessary delays in Federal infrastructure projects.

Investment in Interior’s infrastructure also benefits local economies. Interior’s infrastructure crisscrosses the country in roughly 2,400 locations. In many communities our operations are a major economic driver. Interior owns approximately 43,000 buildings, 106,000 miles of road, and 77,000 structures—including dams, schools, laboratories, employee housing, and irrigation and power infrastructure. Many of these assets are deteriorating. In 2018, Interior’s deferred maintenance backlog was over \$18 billion, of which nearly \$12 billion is associated with NPS assets. The 2020 budget invests \$1.5 billion across Interior for infrastructure maintenance and construction to care for our assets. This includes \$639.8 million for NPS construction and maintenance. Complementing the request is proposed legislation to establish a Public Lands Infrastructure Fund, setting aside up to \$1.3 billion a year, \$6.5 billion over 5 years, from 50 percent of energy development revenue that would otherwise be credited or deposited as miscellaneous receipts to the Treasury. Within Interior, the Fund would be available for infrastructure needs in NPS, FWS, the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), and BLM.

According to the U.S. Commerce Department, in 2016, America’s outdoor economy accounted for \$412 billion of the U.S. GDP. Interior plays a major role in supporting America’s outdoor economy through access to our public lands. Every year, hundreds of millions of visits are made to our national parks, national wildlife refuges, and BLM public lands to do everything from rock climb, kayak and camp to snorkel, hunt, and fish. Recreation visits to BLM and NPS lands alone support more than 350,000 jobs.

Increasing recreational opportunities for more Americans through our public lands and waters also brings more economic opportunity for our neighboring gateway communities. Increased public access to America’s lands is among our highest priorities. The budget for our primary land management bureaus includes roughly \$970.9 million for recreation and public access programs to increase the public’s enjoyment of Interior’s unique resources. In FWS, this request supports safe and reliable access to outdoor recreation for over 55 million visitors to the national wildlife refuges. The refuge system has more than 377 units that offer high-quality hunting opportunities and 312 units that are open to fishing. These activities, along with special events and outdoor education programs, annually generate \$2.4 billion in economic activity and support more than 35,000 jobs. The 2020 budget includes \$9.1 million for FWS to improve trails, open new areas to hunting, fishing and other recreation, increase awareness through updated web sites and recreation maps, and deliver engaging environmental education programs at the refuges.

In 2018, the 418 units of the national park system hosted over 318 million visitors. The 2020 request for NPS includes \$237.1 million for Visitor Services to support informative programming, concession management, and other activities to enhance the visitor experience. The budget invests \$10.0 million to expand outdoor recreation opportunities including fishing

programs for youth and other novice anglers, improve recreational related infrastructure and resources, and coordinate with State, local, business, and nonprofit stakeholders to increase access to outdoor recreation.

Responsible stewardship also means being a good neighbor. The 2020 budget maintains the Administration's continuing support for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes program, recognizing the inability of local communities to collect property taxes on certain Federal lands in their jurisdiction. In 2018, Interior made payments to over 1,900 local governments across the United States. Communities traditionally use these payments to help deliver vital services such as firefighting and police protection, construction of public schools and roads, and search-and-rescue operations. The 2020 budget includes \$465.0 million in direct appropriations to support these payments.

### **COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION OF WILDLIFE, HABITAT AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

Conservation stewardship is a key component of Interior's overall mission and is shared across all bureaus. Whether implementing resource conservation projects, providing grants, scientific expertise, or educational programs to support land, water, and wildlife conservation, Interior is a leader in protecting and managing America's resources for current and future generations to enjoy. The Department's conservation efforts would not be possible without our partners across America.

Our partners include the sportsmen and sportswomen who live America's conservation ethic. They volunteer and frequently provide private and partnership resources to care for wildlife habitat, species management, and collaborative conservation. Through the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Act programs, sportsmen and sportswomen contribute over a billion dollars each year to wildlife and habitat conservation and outdoor recreation projects. Every time a firearm, fishing rod, hook, bullet, motor boat or boat fuel is sold, part of that cost goes to fund conservation.

Increased access to hunting and fishing on public lands not only supports the outdoor economy but it actively supports conservation of these lands. Sportsmen and sportswomen also help to leverage roughly two to one the Federal contribution for Interior's North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants. The 2020 budget includes \$40 million for these grants, which support projects to improve the health of wetlands, support migratory birds, and enhance nearby water quality. The 2020 budget also includes \$31.3 million for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants supporting State and Tribal projects to benefit local wildlife and their habitats through planning and restoration.

The 2020 budget prioritizes partnerships, species recovery, and proactive wildlife and habitat conservation to avoid species from becoming endangered. The budget includes \$95.0 million to recover listed species, and \$26.4 million for a range of proactive species and habitat specific conservation and restoration programs to avoid the need to list species. The \$67.8 million request for FWS Habitat Conservation features \$54.4 million for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, which leverages the Federal investment for conservation projects with local non-Federal partners all across the country.

BLM's multiple use mission enables work, such as grazing, to continue on the public lands, but also ensures conservation of many species and their habitats – safeguarding the Nation's public lands as well as peoples' livelihoods. BLM manages more wildlife habitat acreage than any other Federal agency—supporting conservation efforts for 3,000 species and preserving and restoring essential habitat for 430 threatened or endangered species. The 2020 BLM budget includes \$118.4 million for Wildlife and Habitat Management. Management activities benefit native prairie, wildlife, and livestock, and help stabilize soils, maintain and improve water quality, reduce surface runoff and control flooding, improve ecological site conditions, and enhance overall environmental well-being.

Habitat corridors are a feature of many of the vast tracts of land managed by BLM and are crucial for migrating wildlife. The Department is working with States to research and protect the migration corridors of some of North America's most iconic big-game species by protecting the range of moose, mule deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep, and other species who share the ecosystem benefit. The 2020 budget invests \$18.4 million across Interior to continue to support and expand migration corridor partnerships and conservation opportunities.

America relies on the NPS to protect and maintain the natural beauty of the parks' iconic landscapes as well as the artifacts and structures which help tell America's history. The \$2.4 billion request for national park operations includes \$321.6 million for natural and cultural resource stewardship across the parks. The FWS mission focuses on the conservation, protection, and enhancement of wildlife and their habitats. The 2020 FWS budget includes \$234.4 million for Wildlife and Habitat Management in the national refuge system.

USGS provides science, consistent monitoring, observation and mapping to support the Department's conservation mission. USGS research provides insight into changes in the natural world – our water, lands, geology, wildlife – and how they may affect our communities. The 2020 budget includes \$141.0 million for scientific work related to ecosystems, supporting investigations related to specific ecosystems, such as Florida's Everglades; or biological threats to species, including White Nose Syndrome in bats.

Water is vitally important to the health and well-being of Americans and our lands and wildlife. The USGS works with partners to manage water monitoring networks across the country which are relied upon by land managers, industry, and communities concerned about the availability of water or risk of flooding. USGS also addresses water quality issues, such as the prevalence of harmful algal blooms, which pose risks to natural resources reliant on water but also people. The 2020 budget includes \$179.9 million for USGS Water Resources programs to monitor, understand, and inform water challenges for the benefit of land and wildlife conservation, and communities across the country.

### **ACTIVE MANAGEMENT FOR HEALTHY FORESTS**

Dense undergrowth has amassed on Federal lands, providing fuel for catastrophic wildfires and worsening insect infestation, and spread of invasive species and disease. These conditions are harming the Nation's forests, rangelands, and watersheds, and placing people, their homes, and

their communities at risk. These conditions also make it more dangerous for wildland firefighters to fight the fires. Active fuels management is a necessary and important tool to combat these threats, save lives, and protect property.

In tandem with the budget, the Administration proposes a package of forest management legislative reforms to help address this serious risk. By providing the Department with the tools necessary to expedite timber salvage operations in response to wildfires, insect and disease infestations, and other disturbances, the Department can more effectively reduce the risk of wildfire, utilize forest materials damaged as a result of those events, and better allocate resources to support restoration activities. Interior's 2020 budget includes \$194.0 million in Wildland Fire Management to support aggressive fuels reduction work and pre-suppression activities to help mitigate the incidence of catastrophic wildfires. The budget also includes \$161.8 million for timber management programs in the BLM and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), to prioritize planning and preparation activities affecting timber sales volumes and forest health. In addition, the BLM budget includes \$92.0 million to support healthy rangelands through weed reduction, vegetation treatments, and permitted grazing operations. The NPS budget includes \$4.0 million specifically to improve active forest and vegetation management in the national parks.

Complementing this initiative, Interior continues to work closely with partners to improve the sage-steppe working landscapes of the West which are vitally impacted by wildland fires. The 2020 budget includes \$55.5 million to implement sage-grouse management plans and continue cooperation with Western States on greater sage-grouse conservation. This funding will be used to remove conifers, create fire breaks, remove fire-prone invasive plants, and protect and restore habitat for all sagebrush dependent wildlife. At the end of 2018, nearly 1.5 million acres had been treated. The 2020 budget also includes \$75.7 million to continue management of Wild Horses and Burros on America's rangelands.

More active forest management like expedited timber salvage can reduce the risk to firefighters and revegetation crews, speeding the recovery of lands. The expedited recovery of wood products also provides an economic benefit. In turn, the fire risk to people, communities, recreation facilities, and infrastructure is reduced.

### **SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES**

The Department of the Interior is the proud home of 4,000 federal law enforcement officers with duties as varied as the bureaus' missions. Interior has highly specialized units in three major cities, drug enforcement teams in Indian Country, urban search-and-rescue units that provide hurricane response, and backcountry units that operate in the wilderness for days at a time. The 2020 budget includes a total of \$930.3 million for law enforcement programs, continues successful border enforcement and drug enforcement programs, and supports a new initiative to address the epidemic of violence and missing persons in Indian Country.

Interior's law enforcement officers help to secure Interior lands on the southern border. Over 12.5 million acres under Interior jurisdiction are within 50 miles of the United States-Mexico border. More than 655 miles of land along the border are managed by Interior's bureaus. Interior works closely with the Department of Homeland Security to increase security on the

southwest border, including 75 border miles on Tribal lands, primarily managed by the Tohono O'odham Nation in Arizona. Currently, about 300 miles, or less than half, of Interior's border lands have a vehicle barrier, pedestrian fence, or wall.

Fulfilling the President's commitment to end the opioid crisis in America is another top priority of the Department. This budget includes \$10.0 million including an increase of \$2.5 million, to continue support for the fight against opioids in Indian Country. BIA drug enforcement agents are part of the Federal Opioid Reduction Task Force addressing the increase in drug-related activities through interdiction programs to reduce drug use, distribution, and drug-related crime to help communities in Indian Country battle the opioid crisis. In the first year of operation, the Task Force conducted 8 undercover operations leading to more than 180 arrests and seizure of more than 1,000 pounds of narcotics worth more than \$9.0 million that were intended for sale in Indian Country.

Interior's wildland fire suppression operations are part of a vitally important partnership across all levels of government to fight wildfires on public lands and minimize risk to nearby communities. In fiscal year 2018, Interior spent more than \$528 million on wildfire suppression efforts alone. The 2020 budget includes \$383.7 million for wildfire suppression, pursuant to the requirements under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018. Consistent with the Act, 2020 is the first year resources are also available through a wildfire budget cap adjustment to meet U.S. Forest Service and Department of the Interior fire suppression needs. The 2020 budget assumes a preliminary split of \$300 million of the authorized cap adjustment resources for Interior requirements, with the remainder allocated to the U.S. Forest Service. The Administration will reallocate resources between agencies as necessary to meet actual wildfire suppression needs.

Employees from across Interior also serve as part of Federal emergency response efforts. In the event of a natural disaster, our employees work to protect and rebuild Interior's assets, but are also part of the community working to help recovery. USGS scientists play an important role preparing for and addressing the aftermath of natural hazard events. USGS provides important scientific and monitoring information to emergency responders, policy makers, and the public to reduce the risk of losses from a wide range of natural hazards, including earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, landslides, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, wildfires, geomagnetic storms, and drought. The 2020 budget includes \$145.0 million for the USGS Natural Hazards programs. This funding maintains important nationwide monitoring networks that are vitally important to emergency managers.

### **AN ERA OF ENERGY PROSPERITY**

By advancing policies that embrace domestic energy development, the Trump Administration is putting America on a path towards greater energy security and prosperity. Under the Trump Administration, crude oil and natural gas production has hit all-time highs, U.S. net energy imports have fallen to their lowest levels since 1982, with the U.S. becoming a net exporter of natural gas in 2017 and expected to become a net exporter of energy overall, including petroleum and other liquids, by 2020.

Interior manages a good portion of the natural resources on America's public lands and waters, including oil, gas, coal, hydropower, minerals and renewable energy sources. The Department plays a critical role in the Nation's future energy security and our overall economic well-being. Altogether, Interior's energy and mineral portfolio contributed an economic output of over \$150 billion and supported an estimated 740,000 jobs nationwide. The same year, Interior shattered prior records in onshore oil and gas and offshore wind energy lease sales, and disbursed \$8.9 billion in revenues to States, Tribes, local communities, and the U.S. Treasury, an increase of \$1.8 billion from 2017.

The 2020 budget requests \$777.0 million in discretionary resources for energy-related programs across the Department. Together with permit fees and other mandatory funding, Interior's 2020 energy programs total \$830.1 million. A large portion of these energy development activities occur on the Outer Continental Shelf. The 2020 request includes a total of \$393.9 million to support responsible exploration and development of America's offshore energy resources, which remains a pillar of the Administration's energy strategy. Within this request is \$193.4 million for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) oil, gas, and renewable energy leasing and exploration activities. The 2020 budget continues to support preparation of the Nation's next 5-year Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing program. Interior is analyzing more than 2 million submitted public comments in response to the 2019–2024 National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program and will use this information to prepare a Proposed Leasing Program.

The continued efforts of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) are integral to a strong offshore energy program. The budget includes \$200.5 million for BSEE's work to ensure safe and environmentally sustainable energy exploration and production. BSEE is committed to the continual advancement of the effectiveness of its inspection program, enhancing its permitting processes around greater quality assurance and consistency, reforming overly burdensome regulations, ensuring high levels of preparedness in the event of oil spills, and expanding the renewables program.

The 2020 budget includes \$190.4 million in current and permanent funding for BLM's onshore oil and gas activities, of which \$137.3 million is requested in direct appropriations. Funding will expand areas available for leasing, expedite permitting, and improve program management. The 2020 budget advances activities in Alaska and New Mexico, and continues work to streamline leasing processes and speed the review of Applications for Permits to Drill. Interior has already reduced wait times for these permits by 57 days (from 120 days to 63 days). The budget will also help to expedite the processing of rights-of-way permits needed to move energy to consumers.

The 2020 BLM budget includes \$29.1 million for renewable energy activities. This funding will support the review and siting of geothermal resources, wind and solar energy projects on public lands, and rights-of-way applications to connect these projects to transmission lines. The 2020 budget includes \$19.8 million for the BLM coal management program focused on reducing permit processing times, simplifying the lease application process, and improving the timeliness to complete lease sale fair market value determinations. BLM's Federal coal leasing program supplies more than 40 percent of the coal produced in the United States.

The 2020 budget for BIA includes \$25.5 million for energy and mineral development programs in Tribal communities. Income from energy and mineral production is the largest source of revenue from natural resources on trust lands. In 2018, more than \$1 billion in revenue from oil, gas and mineral activities was disbursed to Tribes and individual Indian mineral rights owners. Tribes use this revenue to develop infrastructure, provide healthcare and education, and support other critical community development programs.

An important component of Interior's natural resource programs is the collection and disbursement of billions of dollars in receipts from development. The 2020 budget includes \$147.3 million for the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) to ensure Americans receive an accurate return for their public resources. In 2020, ONRR will continue to implement a critical new Minerals Revenue Management Support System to update and improve management and accountability of Interior's significant revenue collections.

### **FULFILLING OUR TRUST AND INSULAR RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Department of the Interior is responsible for fostering the government-to-government relationship with Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages and overseeing relations with U.S. territories and insular areas.

The United States has an important relationship with the affiliated insular areas including the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. With China's escalating influence in the Pacific region, Interior's insular responsibilities and obligations contribute meaningfully to broader Administration policy objectives in the region. In 2020, the Office of Insular Affairs will implement activities to bolster healthcare capacity, strengthen island economies, and fulfill U.S. Compact obligations. The Office will also participate in foreign policy and defense matters concerning the U.S. territories and the freely associated states. The 2020 budget includes a total of \$610.7 million in current and permanent authority, with \$84.1 million in current appropriations.

Interior provides services directly, or through contracts, grants, or compacts, to 573 federally recognized Tribes with a combined service population of nearly 2 million American Indians and Alaska Natives. The Department is committed to Tribal prosperity and working together with Tribes to address challenges in economic development, education, and law enforcement. Interior supports Indian self-determination to ensure Tribes have a strong voice in shaping Federal policies directly impacting their ability to govern and provide for the safety, education, and economic security of their citizens. Interior's Tribal programs deliver community services, restore Tribal homelands, fulfill commitments related to water and other resource rights, execute fiduciary trust responsibilities, support the stewardship of energy and other natural resources, create economic opportunity, and provide access to education.

The 2020 budget for Indian Affairs prioritizes programs that serve the broadest service population and addresses Federal responsibilities and Tribal needs related to education, social services, infrastructure, law enforcement, and stewardship of land, water, and other natural resources. The 2020 budget includes \$1.9 billion for BIA, and \$936.3 million for BIE. Within

this is \$367.4 million to fully fund the estimated Contract and Tribal Grant Support Costs Tribes incur from managing Federal Indian programs.

The 2020 budget takes action to improve the quality and efficiency of the BIE schools. In 2020, for the first time, we request funding for BIA and BIE separately, as part of an effort to improve overall transparency, accountability, and autonomy for the effective delivery of BIE school services. This step is consistent with direction from this Subcommittee which began 5 years ago, urging the Department to consolidate all responsibilities related to Indian education under BIE. The changes in the 2020 budget respond to your direction and other longstanding criticism that the lines of authority for BIE services were not clear, it was too difficult to determine who had final accountability for delivering services, and BIE did not have sufficient independence to ensure school needs were met.

The 2020 budget is the result of a detailed review within Indian Affairs, looking at the services provided to the BIE schools and the different roles of BIA, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, and BIE. The review considered where it made sense to decouple overlapping functions and where it made sense to continue cross-servicing to BIE with clearer agreements in place. The 2020 request reflects this review and strengthens BIE's ability to deliver materials and services, carry out needed health and safety inspections, and ensure repairs are made. The BIE budget includes \$867.4 million to continue core Indian education elementary, secondary and post-secondary programs. It also includes \$68.9 million to support facility construction, repairs, deferred maintenance, and capital improvements.

The 2020 BIA budget requests \$1.5 billion for Operation of Indian Programs. This includes \$409.2 million for the Public Safety and Justice programs providing law enforcement, corrections, and court services to Indian communities. The 2020 budget also includes \$326.0 million for Tribal Government programs with \$178.9 million for Self Governance Compacts.

The 2020 BIA budget includes \$184.1 million for Natural Resources Management supporting resource conservation, economic use, recreation, and protection of Tribal resource rights. Within this amount is \$54.8 million for Tribal forestry programs which complement of the Administration's forest management legislative reforms. The budget also includes \$11.2 million for the Tribal Management/Development Program which supports Tribal management of fish and game programs on Indian reservations. These programs ensure the protection of millions of acres of habitat necessary for the conservation of fish, wildlife, and plant resources and significantly contribute to the economic development of Tribal communities and the growing national demand for outdoor recreation and tourism.

The budget maintains a strong commitment to meet Tribal settlement agreements and includes \$45.6 million for BIA Water Rights Settlements. At this funding level, BIA remains on track to meet current water settlement commitments within the legislated timeframes. Across Interior, the budget includes \$178.6 million for Indian Settlement commitments.

## GOVERNMENT REFORM

President Trump challenged Federal agencies to modernize and reform the Executive Branch and Interior is leading the way to better serve the American people. The absolute first step is fostering a culture of ethics and respect amongst colleagues. There is zero tolerance for any type of workplace harassment at Interior. The Department is instilling a culture change through clear management accountability, swift personnel actions, reporting procedures for harassment conduct, improved training, and substantive action plans. In the area of anti-harassment efforts, each bureau and office has made significant headway to put a diverse set of measures in place to prevent and address unacceptable conduct.

We have also launched an internal Workplace Culture Transformation Advisory Council across the Department to keep a focus on Interior's workplace environment. The Council will look at common issues raised in the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey, ways to improve employee engagement, and building career paths that cross bureau silos; all with the goal to transform Interior's workplace culture for future generations.

Another management priority is creating a strong ethical culture to ensure Interior employees honor the public's trust to manage funds responsibly and avoid conflicts of interest. The expectations for appropriate employee conduct have been made clear, and the Department has set goals and expectations for qualified ethics officials sufficient to ensure our operations are conducted ethically.

Over many decades, the Department of the Interior experienced new bureaus becoming established on an ad hoc basis with their own unique regional organizations. This ultimately resulted in a complicated series of 49 regional boundaries among 8 bureaus. This complexity led to the situation where bureau regional leadership was focused on different geographic areas, did not have adequate and shared understanding of the needs and perspectives of regional stakeholders, and opportunities to share administrative capacity across bureaus were difficult to recognize and implement. Members of the public were often frustrated by problems in inter-bureau decision making where uncoordinated timelines and processes could lead to unnecessarily long delays in reaching a decision. In 2018, Interior began a reorganization effort focused on making improvements across each of these areas.

Interior's reorganization is driven by the need to improve our delivery of service to the public. The Department developed a reorganization strategy that relies on unified regions across Interior, moves some staff west to be closer to the resources and customers they support, improves coordination and collaboration among Interior's bureaus, and reviews standard administrative processes across Interior to find smarter ways to conduct business operations.

Last year, Interior took the first step in the reorganization. After working closely with stakeholders across the country on options to consolidate Interior's 49 different regions into common regions, Interior adopted 12 unified regions for a subset of the bureaus. As a result of Tribal consultation, BIA, BIE, and the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians will not realign their regional field structure.

The unified regions will simplify how Interior is organized. Establishing unified regional boundaries across bureaus is the cornerstone of reforms to improve Interior’s service delivery to the public. Within each shared region, bureaus will focus work on the same resources and constituents and improve coordination across the Department. For the public, fewer regions will make it easier to do business with Interior, particularly when the public interacts with several bureaus or jurisdictions. For Interior’s business, the move will strengthen inter-bureau coordination and understanding, joint problem-solving, and mutual assistance.

Bureaus and offices have begun to work across organizational lines to identify ways to maximize the benefits of the new regions. In 2019, we are analyzing options to relocate more operations out West, where the preponderance of bureau assets and acres are located, to better serve our customers. As part of the planning, we are considering relative cost, accessibility, and the specific functions where it makes sense to be closer to field assets. We are also reexamining some of the Department’s common business operations to leverage consistent best practices across Interior. In 2020, the budget requests \$27.6 million to continue implementing the reorganization with three areas of focus: Implementation of the Unified Regions (\$12.1 million), Relocation and Regional Stand Up (\$10.5 million), and Modernizing Interior’s Business (\$5.0 million).

## LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

**Forest Health**—The Administration proposes a comprehensive package of legislative reforms to proactively reduce the risk of wildfires through better management of Federal forests and rangelands. The proposed legislation would provide categorical exclusions on Interior lands for active forest management, including the ability to harvest dead, dying, or damaged trees and proactive fuels management including the use of fuel breaks. These changes are much needed to help reduce fire risk, improve forest health, minimize after fire impacts, prevent re-burn of fire impacted areas, and improve safety for wildland firefighters.

**Public Lands Infrastructure Fund**—The budget proposes \$6.5 billion over 5 years for a Public Lands Infrastructure Fund to address deferred maintenance needs in the Departments of Interior and Agriculture. Within Interior, the Fund will support infrastructure improvements through an allocation of 70 percent for national parks, 10 percent for national forests, 10 percent for wildlife refuges, 5 percent for BIE schools, and 5 percent for lands managed by the BLM. The Fund will be supported by the deposit of 50 percent of all Federal energy development revenue that would otherwise be credited or deposited as miscellaneous receipts to the Treasury over the 2020–2024 period, subject to an annual limit of \$1.3 billion. Interior and Agriculture would prioritize projects, monitor implementation, and measure results.

**Recreation Fee Program**—The budget proposes to reauthorize the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, which expires in September 2020. As a precaution, the budget also proposes appropriations language to provide a 2-year extension of FLREA through September 2022.

**Cancel Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act Account Balances**—The budget proposes to cancel \$230.0 million in unobligated balances from the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) program over a 3-year period.

**EPAct Geothermal Payments to Counties**—The budget proposes to restore the disposition of Federal geothermal leasing revenues to the historical formula of 50 percent to the States and 50 percent to the U.S. Treasury by repealing Section 224(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. That section changed the distribution to direct 50 percent to States, 25 percent to counties, and 25 percent to the Federal government.

## CONCLUSION

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the President's 2020 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior.

In closing, this is a responsible budget that prioritizes core functions important to the American people. This budget invests in American jobs and prosperity by supporting working lands, implementing regulatory reform, expanding access to grow the outdoor economy, and rebuilding infrastructure. Complementing this funding request is legislation to provide up to \$6.5 billion over 5 years to address the deferred maintenance backlog on our public lands.

This budget advances collaborative conservation with investments in the America's natural and cultural resources, support for conservation stewardship partnerships, a focus on species recovery and proactive conservation activities to avoid the need for listing, and reforms to improve the health of our forest and rangelands and reduce risk from severe wildfires.

The 2020 budget supports safe and secure communities by helping to reduce wildfire risk, fight illegal drugs, and secure the southern border. The budget sustains America's era of energy prosperity, maintaining a diverse portfolio of energy sources, ensuring safe development, and keeping the U.S. on course to become a net exporter of energy in 2020.

This budget meets the Nation's trust responsibilities to insular areas and Indian Country and takes action to address a longstanding need to improve the quality of service to students attending BIE schools.

Lastly, this budget invests in Interior's longevity and the continued success of our mission by implementing reorganization reforms.

I look forward to working with you to support the President's 2020 budget request. I am happy to take your questions at this time.

**STATEMENT OF MARGARET EVERSON,  
PRINCIPAL DEPUTY DIRECTOR, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE,  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
ON THE 2020 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET REQUEST  
APRIL 3, 2019**

Good afternoon Chair McCollum, Ranking Member Joyce, and Members of the Subcommittee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Fiscal Year 2020 budget request, and for the Subcommittee's continued support of the Service's work.

The Service's mission is "Working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance, fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people." The Service's work helps ensure a healthy environment, and provides affordable, accessible, and premier opportunities for Americans to enjoy outdoor recreation and our shared natural heritage. The budget underscores the importance of expanding opportunities for all Americans to access public lands and experience the great outdoors.

The budget requests \$1.3 billion in current appropriations for the Service. This is \$101.4 million higher than the FY 2019 budget request for the Service. The budget focuses funding on the agency's highest priority conservation programs, while containing costs through management efficiencies and other savings to address government fiscal realities. In addition to the discretionary request, the Service also has \$1.5 billion in permanent funding that is primarily apportioned to the States and Territories to support State wildlife and sport fish conservation, recreational boating, and other related programs.

The Administration's FY 2020 budget request to Congress makes investments to increase access to outdoor recreational opportunities, improve permitting processes, modernize infrastructure, and recover imperiled species. The budget provides funding to achieve the Service's top priorities for fish and wildlife conservation and outdoor recreation. These priorities ensure access to National Wildlife Refuges for hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation; prevent the extinction and promote the recovery of imperiled species and their habitats; address invasive species; support the environmental review of infrastructure and other development projects; and focus on deferred maintenance funding for wildlife refuges and fish hatcheries. Other Administration priorities for the Service include supporting our law enforcement officers and enhancing visitor and employee safety.

### **National Wildlife Refuge System**

The Service administers the National Wildlife Refuge System (Refuge System), sustaining the American tradition started by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1903 to protect fish and wildlife and their habitats and to provide Americans with recreational opportunities for hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation. There is a refuge in every State and territory of the United States. The 567 refuges in the Refuge System provide lands and waters for thousands of species of wildlife and plants, sanctuary for hundreds of threatened and endangered species, and spawning

areas for economically and recreationally important native fish. The Refuge System plays an essential role in providing outdoor recreation opportunities to the American public and the associated economic benefits to local communities. Of the 567 wildlife refuges and 38 Wetland Management Districts, 377 are open to some type of hunting, and 312 are open to fishing. Over 2.4 million hunters and over 7.3 million recreational anglers visited these refuges last year.

In total in FY 2018, over 55 million visitors hunted, fished, and recreated on refuges. These visitors help refuges serve as economic engines for local communities, annually supporting 37,000 jobs and \$2.4 billion in visitor expenditures according to the Service's latest *Banking on Nature* report.

The budget requests \$509.5 million to administer the Refuge System. This is the largest budget request ever for the Refuge System and will enable us to significantly enhance outdoor recreational opportunities in rural, urban, and suburban landscapes, as well as to support the vital role of volunteers on our refuges. The budget includes \$5.0 million to expand efforts to combat invasive species including establishing additional Strike Teams across the country to apply proven early detection/rapid response (EDRR) techniques. A new Strike Team established in Alaska will work in partnership with the State of Alaska to develop best practices for joint Federal/State EDRR efforts to fight invasive species.

The request for the Refuge System includes \$146 million to reduce the Service's maintenance backlog and to take care of the facilities and infrastructure that the Service manages. This includes \$46 million to address the backlog in deferred maintenance. The request would maintain the Service's current commitment to reduce the maintenance backlog in the Refuge System, improving refuge management and enhancing the overall visitor experience.

Also included in the budget request for the Refuge System is \$43.2 million for refuge law enforcement. This investment will support the safety of the more than 55 million annual visitors across the Refuge System, prevent poaching and other illegal activities, and assist U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers in their critically important efforts to secure our borders.

### **Endangered Species**

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) is one of our Nation's most important wildlife conservation laws. The ESA has had notable success since its passage over 40 years ago – bald eagles and peregrine falcons, once rare in the lower 48 States, are fully recovered and we have brought species like the California condor and black-footed ferret back from the very brink of extinction. Preventing extinction and achieving recovery of listed species continues to be one of the Service's highest priorities. To further this priority, the Service's budget request proposes a total of \$240 million to implement the ESA and other laws under the Ecological Services program, including the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Coastal Barrier Resources Act.

The Service's focus on the recovery of species has resulted in twelve species delisted and downlisted and nine species proposed for delisting and downlisting in this Administration. The Ecological Services budget request includes \$95 million dedicated to the recovery of species listed under the ESA. By recovering species and returning them to State and Tribal management, we further our commitment to being a good neighbor by working with States, and

private landowners on conservation activities and are able to focus resources on those species of greatest conservation need.

The request also includes \$26.4 million for conservation and restoration activities that can help keep at-risk species off the threatened and endangered species lists and under the management of our State and Tribal partners. The Service is committed to strengthening delivery of conservation under the ESA by making it easier to work with the agency on proactive conservation efforts for species. By investing in reducing threats to species and their habitats before they become critically imperiled, future conservation efforts are likely to be less costly, more flexible, and more likely to result in successful conservation over time.

The Ecological Services budget proposal also includes \$107.5 million to facilitate planning and consultation that will support economic development while ensuring the conservation of our Nation's fish and wildlife resources. This request will support the Service's priorities, including modernizing our infrastructure and striking a regulatory balance. Funding will allow the Service to provide timely evaluations of project and work with developers, as well as private landowners on appropriate mitigation and avoidance measures, showing that responsible development and the conservation of wildlife can go hand-in-hand through a transparent and efficient permitting process.

The Administration is committed to making the ESA work for the American people. The Service's proposal for the Ecological Services program represents a significant investment in this commitment and will help us build upon the many conservation successes we have achieved in the last two years.

### **Migratory Birds**

Migratory birds are central to several traditional recreational pastimes, including hunting and birdwatching. Migratory birds also provide insect and rodent control, plant pollination, and seed dispersal. The Service's Migratory Bird program works to conserve birds and to preserve traditional subsistence and outdoor recreational pursuits involving birds, as well as migratory bird management, cooperation with States, and environmental reviews. The program works with partners such as outdoor recreation and sporting groups, conservation organizations, Tribes, State wildlife agencies, and others to conserve habitats needed to support these populations for future generations of Americans to enjoy. The FY 2020 request for the Service's Migratory Bird program is \$49.5 million, which would provide waterfowl hunting opportunities and supports the conservation of birds.

### **Fish and Aquatic Conservation**

The Fish and Aquatic Conservation program works with partners and the public to manage fish and other aquatic resources to achieve the goals of healthy, self-sustaining populations, and the conservation or restoration of their habitats. The economic value of fisheries conservation is substantial and well documented. In 2016, 35.8 million Americans went fishing and expended \$46.1 billion for travel, equipment, and other purchases.

The budget provides \$56.4 million in funding for National Fish Hatchery operations, which provides fish to States and Tribes, while also propagating and providing refugia for endangered

aquatic species enabling us to fulfill our trust responsibilities and Tribal partnerships. The National Fish Hatchery System also provides opportunities for the public to visit and learn about fish propagation and conservation as well as to take advantage of recreational activities on hatchery grounds. The Service requests \$25.8 million for hatchery maintenance.

Invasive species cost our economy billions of dollars each year. The adage of “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” rings true in terms of invasive species management. Therefore, to continue our commitment to addressing this important issue, the Service is proposing \$16.1 million for programs that focus on preventing the spread of Asian carp, quagga, zebra mussels, sea lamprey, and other non-native aquatic species.

### **Law Enforcement**

The Office of Law Enforcement’s primary responsibility is to focus on significant threats to wildlife resources—illegal trade, unlawful commercial exploitation, habitat destruction, and environmental hazards. The Office of Law Enforcement investigates wildlife crimes; regulates wildlife trade; helps Americans understand and comply with wildlife protection laws; and works in partnership with international, Federal, State, and Tribal counterparts to conserve wildlife resources.

Illegal wildlife trafficking is a multi-billion dollar global business that fuels international instability and has been linked to other illicit activities such as human, arms, and drug trafficking. Our continued investment in combating wildlife trafficking is important to countering organized crime. The budget provides \$77.2 million for the Office of Law Enforcement to investigate wildlife crimes and enforce wildlife laws.

The Service continues to cooperate with the State Department, other Federal agencies, and foreign governments to disrupt transportation routes connected to the illegal wildlife trafficking supply chain. The Service will continue to cooperate with other nations to combat wildlife trafficking to halt the destruction of some of the world’s most iconic species by stopping illicit trade; ensuring sustainable legal trade; reducing demand for illegal products; and providing technical assistance and grants to other nations to develop local enforcement capabilities. The budget request will also enable the Service to implement the President’s Executive Order on Enforcing Federal Law with Respect to Transnational Criminal Organizations and Preventing International Trafficking.

### **International Affairs**

The International Affairs program leads domestic and international efforts to protect, restore, and enhance the world’s diverse wildlife and their habitats. The Service works to ensure that wildlife trade is both legal and sustainable to benefit the survival of species and domestic economies through the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and domestic wildlife laws.

The budget requests \$16.6 million for the International Affairs program. The Service provides technical and financial assistance to partners to support innovative projects that address wildlife poaching and trafficking by strengthening international law enforcement capabilities, reducing

demand for illegally traded wildlife, and expanding international cooperation and commitment to mitigate threats.

**Conclusion**

The President's FY 2020 budget proposal supports his commitment to create jobs, provide outdoor recreation including hunting and fishing, facilitate infrastructure development and other economic activities, and support law enforcement needs. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

**STATEMENT OF P. DANIEL SMITH,  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR EXERCISING THE AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR,  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
ON THE 2020 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET REQUEST  
APRIL 3, 2019**

Chair McCollum and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today at this hearing on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 President's budget request for the National Park Service (NPS).

**FY 2020 Introduction and Budget Summary**

The FY 2020 President's budget request proposes total discretionary appropriations of \$2.7 billion for the NPS. The request continues delivery of mission critical activities and advances Administration priorities. These priorities include ensuring the American public continues to have an enriching national park experience, improving public access for outdoor recreation, and investing in park infrastructure. The request also includes an estimated \$733.4 million in mandatory appropriations. In total, the request includes budget authority of \$3.5 billion.

The FY 2020 budget supports continued stewardship of resources of national significance and provision of enriching experiences and enjoyment for visitors. The President's budget ensures that national parks continue to serve visitors who come every year to relax and recreate in America's great outdoors and learn about the people and places that make up America's story.

The budget includes \$321.6 million for natural and cultural resource stewardship. National parks are critical venues for the conservation of natural resources and play a unique role as places to apply adaptive management strategies. The budget supports the conservation of natural resources by funding projects and programs that promote or control native and invasive species, combat disease to preserve species and ecosystems, mitigate impacts to resources through conservation restoration and research, restore native lands, and control wildfire fuels through vegetation management.

The budget also emphasizes the importance of and commitment to addressing the deferred maintenance backlog faced by nearly every park across the country. The FY 2020 budget includes \$796.8 million for facility operations and maintenance, including \$132.0 million for Repair and Rehabilitation projects and \$134.1 million for Cyclic Maintenance projects. The 2020 budget also includes a proposal to establish a multi-agency Public Lands Infrastructure Fund to address the backlog of deferred maintenance on public lands, including NPS lands.

In 2018, for the fourth consecutive year visitation to America's national parks exceeded 300 million, totaling 318 million visitors. The 2020 budget supports ongoing efforts to offer a rewarding national park experience and provide affordable and accessible recreational opportunities. Communities surrounding national parks benefit from sustained high visitation by way of increased economic activity generated by visitor and employee spending, both directly (e.g. hotels, restaurants, gas stations, etc.) and indirectly (e.g. hotel and restaurant suppliers, etc.). In 2017, the most recent data available, visitors spent an estimated \$18.0 billion in local gateway regions, supporting more than 306,000 jobs, with \$35.8 billion in economic output to the national economy.

National parks provide recreational opportunities for hunters and anglers as well as campers and hikers. To assist in these efforts, the 2020 budget includes \$10.0 million to support and enhance recreational opportunities at parks, including \$1.5 million to support veteran employment programs through Veteran Fire Corps conducting active forest management work; \$1.0 million for a traditional trades apprenticeship program for veterans teaching historic preservation; \$2.0 million to invest in a Service and Conservation Corps to improve recreation-related infrastructure; \$1.2 million to increase accessible hunting and fishing opportunities through a series of fishing events that would engage volunteers, including veterans, to teach junior anglers how to fish; \$1.0 million to build and/or retrofit accessible hunting blinds and fishing piers; and \$300,000 to support Alaska Native subsistence programs. The recreational access proposal also includes \$3.0 million to promote lesser known park sites within the tourism industry and build partnerships to market the recreation opportunities available at all national park units.

The request includes \$6.3 million to support parks with rising visitation enhance the visitor experience and ensure visitor safety. Funding will expand capacity in the areas of interpretation and education, park protection, and facility operations and maintenance, where demands on capacity within parks in terms of staffing and facility upkeep are most pressing. Parks experiencing the most significant increase in visitation include Great Smoky Mountains, Grand Canyon, Glacier, and Acadia National Parks.

The 2020 budget also requests \$4.0 million for on-the-ground active forest management necessary to reduce the wildfire risk to NPS infrastructure and resources and increase safety for firefighters and the public. Parks with the highest priority needs include Great Smoky Mountains, Crater Lake, Sequoia and Kings Canyon, and Yellowstone National Parks.

Addressing deferred maintenance in our national parks is critical to the NPS core mission and is a top priority of the Administration. The NPS 2018 deferred maintenance asset inventory summary report estimates there is \$11.9 billion in deferred maintenance needs in the parks including buildings, roads, trails, and other assets under NPS care. The 2020 budget continues to prioritize maintenance fund sources for infrastructure projects that address deferred maintenance, health and safety concerns, and resource preservation that are financially sustainable.

The FY 2020 budget includes \$4.0 million for new parks including Camp Nelson National Monument; Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park; and the Birmingham Civil Rights, Freedom Riders, and Reconstruction Era National Monuments. Funding would also support increased security at Independence National Historical Park and Cesar E. Chávez National Monument, and provide for a newly implemented locality pay adjustment in three areas of the country.

### **Operation of the National Park System**

The Operation of the National Park System (ONPS) appropriation funds the operations of our 419 parks and related programs. The 2020 budget proposes ONPS funding at \$2.4 billion.

The request for operations includes several notable proposals. These include the \$10.0 million for recreational access opportunities, \$6.3 million to support parks with rising visitation, \$4.0

million for active forest management, and \$4.0 million for new park responsibilities, as described above. In addition to these, the budget requests \$5.7 million for the reorganization of the Department of the Interior to implement the 12 unified regions and modernize Interior's administrative services. The budget also requests \$5.0 million to be provided for the National Park Foundation to promote public-private partnerships for the benefit of the national park system. The budget proposes \$2.3 million in law enforcement and health and safety increases to support the U.S. Public Health Service commissioned officers to ensure the safety of food, water, and wastewater systems provided in our national parks; to increase tactical support for fire suppression through the use of drones; and allow for additional law enforcement rangers to attend basic training – a step toward reducing the backlog of 200 rangers waiting to enter the training program. The budget also requests \$1.2 million in recurring funding for the timely replacement of the U. S. Park Police helicopter fleet. The budget also includes \$5.5 million for the increase to the D.C. water and sewer bill and \$5.9 million in net increases to External Administrative Costs including space rental, unemployment compensation, telecommunications and postage, and other departmental program changes.

### **Centennial Challenge**

The National Park Service Centennial Act (P.L. 114-289), enacted in 2016, established a permanent National Park Centennial Challenge Fund. Amounts exceeding \$10.0 million from the sale of age-discounted Federal Recreational Lands Passes, commonly known as Senior Passes, are deposited into this Fund as offsetting collections to be used as the Federal match for projects or programs that enhance the visitor experience. The budget estimates deposits into this Fund will be \$1.4 million in FY 2020. As all Federal funds must be matched on at least a 50:50 basis, private donations will leverage the Federal funds for a total of at least \$2.8 million.

### **National Recreation and Preservation**

The National Recreation and Preservation appropriation funds programs that support local and community efforts to preserve natural and cultural resources. The FY 2020 budget includes \$32.3 million.

The budget provides \$11.2 million for Natural Programs, including \$9.1 million for Rivers, Trails, and Conservations Assistance (RTCA) programs. RTCA will continue to enhance outdoor recreation access and provide technical assistance for projects in more than 800 communities. Other programs within this appropriation will provide support for managers of National Natural Landmarks, ensure recreation and conservation enhancements where possible in developing new hydropower, and assist in the transfer of unneeded/surplus Federal property to States and communities for public parks and recreation. National Register Programs are funded at \$15.7 million and will conduct approximately 1,300 new National Register actions and other activities such as digitizing National Register records. Funding for the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, proposed at \$1.7 million, will provide technical information, research, best-practices, and technology training to preservation professionals nationwide.

### **Historic Preservation Fund**

The Historic Preservation Fund appropriation supports Historic Preservation Offices in States, territories, and tribal lands for the preservation of historically and culturally significant sites and to carry out other responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act. The FY 2020 budget requests \$32.7 million.

### **Construction**

The budget proposes \$246.3 million for Construction. Line Item Construction is funded at \$160.7 million, which includes \$4.0 million for demolition and disposal projects, \$4.0 million to mitigate dangers in and around abandoned mineral lands sites, and \$152.7 million for line item projects that help tackle the NPS's \$11.9 billion deferred maintenance backlog and address important safety, visitor experience, and resource preservation issues at parks. Some project examples include rehabilitating the breakwater at Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Historical Park, and rebuilding the Nauset Light Beach Bathhouse at Cape Cod National Seashore.

The request funds Construction Program Management and Operations at \$41.9 million. Construction Planning is funded at \$17.9 million to ensure future projects are ready for execution and reduce uncertainties often uncovered during initial planning of construction work that can

necessitate changes in materials, time, compliance, or other factors that could increase the cost of a project.

Funding for Special Programs is proposed at \$15.7 million. These programs work with parks to decrease the potential of and increase preparedness for dam accidents, upgrade the condition of employee housing, and provide for emergency projects.

The budget proposes to fund Management Planning activities of the Park Service at \$10.2 million. The program will continue special resource studies and reconnaissance surveys currently underway or in the transmittal process.

### **Land Acquisition and State Assistance**

Within the Federal Land Acquisition appropriation, American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) Acquisition Grants and Recreational Access Grants are funded at \$5.0 million and \$1.0 million, respectively. ABPP grant funding will allow for 12-15 grants per year and will continue protection of significant historic battlefield lands associated with wars on American soil. Recreational Access grants will allow NPS to continue to work with landowners adjacent to NPS properties to purchase properties that would enhance recreational opportunities.

### **Mandatory Proposals**

Due to sustained increases in visitation, as well as increases in fee pricing implemented in June of 2018, revenues collected by NPS under the authority established in the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) have increased 65% from FY 2014 to FY 2018. These revenues are used primarily at the park where they were collected, with a portion used at non-collecting parks, to implement projects and programs that enhance the visitor experience and improve visitor facilities. The FY 2020 budget estimates \$312.5 million in FLREA revenues and plans to obligate \$192.8 million on deferred maintenance, capital improvement, and routine maintenance.

The budget also supports the Visitor Experience Improvements Fund (VEIF), as authorized through the Visitor Experience Improvement Authority (VEIA) under the National Park Service

Centennial Act (P.L. 114-289). The budget estimates \$21.2 million in the revolving account to enhance the visitor experience through management, improvement, enhancement, operation, construction, and maintenance of commercial visitor services facilities.

### **Public Lands Infrastructure Fund**

The Departments of the Interior and Agriculture manage an infrastructure asset portfolio with over \$18 billion in deferred maintenance, which includes structures, trails, roads, utility systems, and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools. To address these needs, the budget includes \$6.5 billion over 5 years for a Public Lands Infrastructure Fund. The Fund will support infrastructure improvements through an allocation of 70 percent for national parks, 10 percent for national forests, 10 percent for wildlife refuges, five percent for BIE schools, and five percent for lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The Fund will be supported by the deposit of 50 percent of all Federal energy development revenue that would otherwise be credited or deposited as miscellaneous receipts to the Treasury over the 2020–2024 period, subject to an annual limit of \$1.3 billion. Interior and Agriculture would prioritize projects, monitor implementation, and measure results. This investment will significantly improve many of America's most visible, visited, and treasured places.

Thank you for your continued support of the NPS and consideration of our FY 2020 Budget Request.

**STATEMENT OF JIM REILLY,  
DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
ON THE 2020 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET REQUEST  
APRIL 3, 2019**

Chair McCollum, Ranking Member Joyce and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the invitation to deliver this testimony regarding the FY 2020 Budget Request for the United States Geological Survey (USGS).

The 2020 budget request for the USGS is \$983.5 million. The budget funds scientific monitoring, research, and mapping to support management strategies for land, water, and species. The budget supports Landsat 9 Ground System Development to meet a fiscal year 2021 launch. The budget funds energy and mineral resource assessments, utilizing tools such as light detection and ranging (lidar) elevation mapping, geologic mapping, and airborne geophysics, to identify mineral resources that are of significant value to the United States, and can inform strategies to reduce critical mineral import dependence. The budget also applies science to safeguard communities against natural hazards. Additionally, the budget enables us to make investments in modernizing our facilities to conduct the best science.

**Departmental Priorities and the 2020 Budget**

The 2020 budget request for the USGS advances several Departmental priorities by supporting strategic investments in research, assessments, mapping, and land imaging.

***Providing Science to Inform Land, Water, and Species Management***

The budget maintains efforts to develop high-fidelity water forecasts and early warning systems for invasive species, wildlife disease, and adaptation planning. This work supports the management responsibilities of the National Park Service (NPS), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), United States Department of Defense (DOD), State, Tribes, and local water resource management agencies, and the International Boundary and Water Commission.

***Delivering 21<sup>st</sup> Century Mapping and Land Imaging***

The budget supports development of the next generation of Earth remote sensing products, maps, and data. This includes providing 3DEP-quality data for the U.S. by 2026, developing and launching Landsat 9 by fiscal year 2021, and updating the topographic maps for Alaska by 2022. This work supports BLM, Reclamation, NPS, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), FWS, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), NOAA, DOD, Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Forest Service, and State and local agencies.

***Delivering Science for Energy and Mineral Resources***

The 2020 budget enhances opportunities for energy security through research and resource assessments, particularly through efforts to update the estimate of undiscovered, technically recoverable hydrocarbon resources within Alaska's North Slope. In addition, the budget supports a modern understanding of the Nation's critical mineral endowment by investing in topographic, geologic mapping, and aeromagnetic data in areas with potential for hosting critical minerals. This work responds to Executive Order 13817 (A Federal Strategy to Ensure Secure and Reliable Supplies of Critical Minerals) and supports NPS,

BLM, BOEM, FWS, as well as DOD, USFS, and States and local governments.

### ***Making Science Available to Safeguard Communities from Natural Hazards***

The budget supports maintenance and development of early warning and enhanced monitoring systems for various natural hazards and delivering improved earthquake hazard assessments. This includes modernizing volcano monitoring networks with digital instrumentation; delivering post-wildfire debris-flow hazards assessments that inform landslide response plans; and expanding the data collection networks and flood inundations maps available to inform flood prediction and response. This work supports stakeholders across the Nation, including FEMA, NSF, NRC, the American Red Cross, and State and local governments.

### **Support for the DOI Reorganization**

The 2020 request includes \$6.2 million for the USGS to support the reorganization of the Department of the Interior. On August 22, 2018, after working closely with stakeholders across the country on options to consolidate Interior's 49 different regions into common regions, the Department announced the designation of Interior's 12 new unified regions. Establishing unified regions across bureaus is the cornerstone of the reforms to improve Interior's service delivery to the public. Within each unified region, bureaus will focus work on the same resources and constituents and improve coordination across the Department. For the public, fewer regions make it easier to do business with Interior, particularly when it involves several bureaus or jurisdictions.

As part of the reorganization reforms, Interior will relocate some headquarters functions out West where the preponderance of Interior's assets and acres are located. Interior will also leverage the unified regional structure to implement smarter ways to conduct business using shared services and best practices across the Department. Efforts are focused on human resources, information technology, and acquisition services. Work is underway in 2019 to plan implementation, conduct analysis, and identify areas for collaboration within the regions.

### **Budget Restructure**

The budget proposes to realign USGS mission areas to ensure that programs of related focus and practice are managed within the same mission area, including aligning land imaging programs with other mapping programs, and integrating adaptation and landscape science into the biological science programs of the USGS. The shift consolidates seven mission areas into five, which allows the USGS to eliminate several vacant positions and realign programs to leverage existing support staff. This reduces the number of USGS Associate Director positions from seven to five. This reduction of mission areas aligns with government-wide goals to improve efficiency and utilize resources and expertise that is readily available. The budget also contains a restructure in the Water Resources Mission Area that aligns programs to achieve integrated observation, understanding, prediction, and delivery of water science information to the Nation. The Ecosystems Mission Area is also restructured in the budget to align the budget into the framework of their lines of work.

### **Ecosystems Mission Area**

Through the Ecosystems Mission Area, the USGS provides scientific information and decision support to meet Interior's shared responsibility for land and species management, reduce risk of invasive species and wildlife diseases, and fulfill treaty obligations with Tribes. The USGS helps protect the Nation's fish and wildlife heritage by bridging the gap between science and management for harvested species, at-risk species and species of management concern. The USGS works with many Federal, State, local, and Tribal partners to sustain hunting, fishing, and wildlife-related recreational activities of the American public that contribute \$144 billion and 480,000 jobs to the U.S. economy (*2017 National Recreation Economy Report, Outdoor Industry Association*). The USGS identifies threats and designs conservation measures to preclude the need for listing species as endangered or threatened; help listed species recover;

prevent or minimize damage from invasive species and wildlife disease outbreaks; and apply decision science so that management and policy actions are transparent and durable. Ecosystems sciences are essential for making cost-effective resource management decisions for the Nation's lands and waterways; providing decision makers with regional and nationwide monitoring of key environmental indicators for terrestrial, freshwater, and marine habitats and the species that utilize those habitats. Data holdings and observation networks maintained by the Ecosystems Mission Area are vital to understand the status, trends, and health of our Nation's natural resources and to support public land and resource management decisions. Many of these databases include decades-long records of observations, collected under strict standards of quality assurance and quality control.

The 2020 budget request for Ecosystems is \$141,049,000. This request maintains research programs in biosecurity, smart energy development; support for America's hunting and fishing heritage; and science to inform Interior resource management decisions for trust lands and species. In addition, the budget proposes to restructure to four programs, including incorporating the Climate Adaptation Science Center and Climate R&D. This restructure focuses USGS biological and ecological capabilities on providing science for natural resource management decisions by Federal, State, and Tribal agencies, with emphasis on Department of the Interior trust responsibilities for lands, species, and priority ecosystems.

### **Energy and Mineral Resources Mission Area**

Energy and mineral resources are vital components of the Nation's economy. The United States is currently 100 percent dependent on foreign nations for 20 different mineral commodities, including several that are critical minerals for national security and economic growth. The Nation depends on energy to power homes and businesses, as well as minerals to manufacture products such as cell phones, laptops, and cars and renewable energy technologies. As demands for energy and mineral resources grow, the USGS research and assessments become increasingly critical for understanding the occurrence, quality, supply, and use of national and global resources. The in-depth science provided by the USGS Energy and Mineral Resources Mission Area informs strategic, evidence-based economic and geopolitical decisions and facilitates responsible natural resource development. The Energy and Mineral Resources Mission Area conducts scientific research, completes energy and mineral resource assessments, and compiles information and statistics on the worldwide supply and flow of minerals, including critical minerals, and materials essential to our economy and national security.

The 2020 budget request for Energy and Mineral Resources is \$86,072,000. This request supports a focus on core activities, which include: energy and mineral resource assessments; research on undiscovered, technically recoverable oil and gas resources, as well as gas hydrates, geothermal, wind, and other energy sources; and compiling information and statistics on the worldwide supply and flow of minerals and materials essential to our economy and national security. In addition, the budget requests an increase for the Earth Mapping Resources Initiative (Earth MRI), an initiative to assess the Nation's critical mineral resources to reduce mineral import dependence, strengthen national security, and generate economic and social benefits through products and services. The budget also requests an increase to continue a multi-year magnetotelluric (MT) survey of the U.S.

### **Natural Hazards Mission Area**

The USGS provides scientific information to emergency responders, policy makers, and the public to reduce losses from a wide range of natural hazards, including earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, landslides, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, wildfires, and geomagnetic storms. Working with its partners, cooperators, and customers, the USGS delivers actionable assessments of these hazards and helps to develop effective strategies for achieving more-resilient communities. The USGS is the Federal agency responsible for monitoring and notification of earthquakes, volcanic activity, landslides and coastal erosion in the United States. For many other hazards, the USGS directly supports the warning responsibility of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. To achieve its primary mission, and to fulfill its responsibilities for loss and risk reduction, the USGS Natural Hazards Mission Area develops, delivers,

and applies several components of hazard science: observations and targeted research underpin assessments, forecasts, warnings, and crisis and disaster response. The research, data, products, and detailed information that the USGS provides enables Federal, State, Tribal, local, and private-sector end-users to better understand, anticipate and reduce their risks associated with natural, technological, and environmental hazards, and enables science-based decisions that effectively enhance resilience and reduce impacts from those threats.

The 2020 budget request for Natural Hazards is \$145,025,000. This request supports the mission essential and operational functions of hazard warning and disaster reduction. Those activities include: hazard alerting for earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, and the associated monitoring networks; hazard response activities (for all hazards, including for landslides and coastal inundation); hazard assessment activities that are currently integrated into risk reduction activities (e.g., for building codes, land use planning, etc.); and applied research projects that support hazard warning, response, and assessment activities. This budget request includes an increase that would deliver improved earthquake hazard assessments, including improvements to the National Seismic Hazard Model and a next-generation seismic hazard map for Alaska. In addition, the budget maintains monitoring of the Earth's magnetic field through ground-based magnetic observatories that provide geomagnetic monitoring data.

### **Water Resources Mission Area**

The USGS monitors and assesses the amount and characteristics of the Nation's water resources, assesses sources and behavior of contaminants in the water environment, and develops tools to improve management and understanding of water resources. The information and tools provided by the USGS allow first responders, the public, water managers and planners, policy makers, and other decision makers to: minimize loss of life and property as a result of water-related natural hazards, such as floods, droughts, landslides, and chemical spills; manage freshwater, both above and below the land surface, for domestic, public, agricultural, commercial, industrial, recreational, and ecological uses; protect and enhance water resources for human health, aquatic health, and environmental quality; and contribute to the effective development and conservation of the Nation's water resources for the benefit of present and future generations. The cooperative matching funds (CMF) program provides funding to partner with nearly 1,600 local, State regional, and Tribal agencies to monitor and assess water in every State, protectorate, and territory.

The 2020 budget request for Water Resources is \$179,922,000. This includes a total of \$57,710,000 of CMF across the mission area. The budget sustains the National Streamgaging Network and provides capacity to research water use, conduct studies on the use, quantity, and quality components of water availability, and develop regional-scale models and model-based decision support tools. In addition, the budget proposes to restructure the Water Resources Mission Area to two programs, the Water Resources Availability Program and Water Observing Systems Program, to achieve integrated observation, understanding, prediction, and delivery of water science and information to the Nation.

### **Core Science Systems Mission Area**

As the lead civilian mapping agency for the Nation, the Core Science Systems (CSS) Mission Area conducts detailed surveys and distributes the resulting high-quality and highly-accurate topographic, geologic, hydrographic, and biogeographic maps and data. USGS products and services are foundational (i.e. underlying base maps and data) and support the conduct of USGS and Interior science. Mapping accuracy enabled by cutting-edge technologies allows precise planning for critical mineral assessments; energy development; transportation and pipeline infrastructure projects; urban planning and development, flood prediction at regional, local, and neighborhood scales; emergency response; and hazard mitigation. In addition, the CSS delivers remote sensing observation capacity, data, and research to inform land and resource managers while improving understand of how landscapes and associated natural resources are changing at global and regional scales.

The 2020 budget request for Core Science Systems is \$207,193,000. This request funds priority high-resolution elevation, hydrographic, geologic, and biogeographic mapping activities; remote sensing satellite operations; remote sensing imagery availability; land cover change and classification applications; high performance computing and modeling activities; science data analysis and synthesis; and geoscientific asset preservation (e.g., drilling cores and rock samples). With the proposed budget, these programs would continue to coordinate geospatial data requirements with partners and leverage Federal funds with matching partner funds to eliminate duplication (i.e., pay to collect data once and use the results many times over for multiple applications). The USGS would also continue to develop the Landsat 9 ground and flight systems in collaboration with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to meet a planned launch date in fiscal year 2021.

### **USGS Science Support**

The Science Support Mission Area provides the core functions that make it possible for the USGS to conduct science. These business and information services and systems include acquisitions and grants, finance, internal controls, communications, budget and performance, monitoring and evaluation of science quality and integrity, information assurance, information management and technology services, and human capital. Science Support also includes the executive leadership and management that provide guidance, direction, and oversight for all of the USGS science activities. The 2020 request continues support for the reorganization of the Department of the Interior with funding to stand up the unified regional boundaries, relocate staff as necessary, and improve operations through the use of technology, shared services, and consistent practices.

The 2020 budget request for Science Support is \$102,910,000. This request supports core activities of the USGS's executive, managerial, and accounting activities, information management and technology, and support services. This includes providing essential support services (e.g. acquisition and grants; finance; information management and technology; human capital; etc.); maintaining support for emerging technology such as the USGS Cloud Hosting Solutions; and improving the design of data management and storage capabilities that will allow scientists to access data and analytical tools anywhere.

### **USGS Facilities**

The Facilities Mission Area provides safe, functional workspace to accomplish the bureau's scientific mission with an emphasis on the mission driving facility needs. Funding supports rent; basic facility operations; security; facility maintenance, in compliance with Federal, State, and local standards; and provides a safe, sustainable working environment for employees, visiting partners, and customers.

The 2020 budget request for Facilities is \$121,296,000. This request maintains an emphasis on optimizing facility locations and usage and supports deferred maintenance and capital improvement projects. In addition, the request continues support for the move out of Menlo Park to Moffett Field. A signed cooperative agreement with the Colorado School of Mines for a new building to support research, furthering the Interior's goal of modernizing infrastructure and reducing the facilities footprint.

### **Conclusion**

In summary, this budget request makes strategic and tough decisions on how the USGS can continue to serve the American people by providing critical science and information to stakeholders. Through the bureau's diverse scientific expertise, the request ensures the USGS can continue to support high-priority research and integrated assessments of natural resources, the stewardship of public lands and waters; and the delivery of natural hazard science to protect public safety, health, and economic prosperity. Through efforts to restructure and reorganize, the request strives to more efficiently align resources and make USGS programs easier to track, explain, and build associations with. On behalf of the USGS, thank for this opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

**STATEMENT OF BRIAN STEED,  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR POLICY & PROGRAMS, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT,  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
ON THE 2020 PRESIDENT’S BUDGET REQUEST  
APRIL 4, 2019**

Madam Chair and Members of the Subcommittee, I am pleased to be here today to discuss the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 budget request.

**Introduction**

The BLM manages approximately 245 million acres of surface land and over 700 million acres of subsurface mineral estate on behalf of the American people.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) sets forth the BLM’s multiple-use and sustained yield mission, directing that public lands be managed for a variety of uses, ranging from conventional and renewable energy development, livestock grazing, conservation, mining, watershed protection, to hunting, fishing, and other forms of recreation. The BLM manages lands with some of the most advanced energy development in the world and some of North America’s most wild, historic, and scenic landscapes. Because of this, Federal lands support the production of goods and services that create jobs and promote economic development in communities across the Nation. This multiple use mission advances the President’s priorities of energy security, shared conservation stewardship, safe borders, and putting Americans back to work, while also emphasizing the interconnection between people, the public lands, and the economy.

Collaboration and cooperation are hallmarks of the BLM’s multiple use management approach. The Bureau engages a wide range of stakeholders and communities to inform its land management decisions. These efforts are essential in order for the Federal government to be a good neighbor and steward for local communities.

**FY 2020 Budget Overview**

The Bureau’s 2020 budget requests \$1.2 billion, including \$1.08 billion for the Management of Lands and Resources (MLR) appropriation and \$107.0 million for the Oregon and California Grant Lands (O&C) appropriation – the BLM’s two main operating accounts.

The FY 2020 budget supports opportunities for outdoor recreation, sustainable timber harvesting, grazing, and promotes responsible energy and mineral development. In tandem with the budget, the Administration proposes a package of forest management legislative reforms to provide the Department with tools to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfires.

The BLM FY 2020 budget request reflects and strengthens the Administration's commitment in the following areas:

- Sustainable Energy Development and Natural Resource Protection
- Restoring Trust and Being a Good Neighbor
- Conserving Our Land and Water Resources
- Expanding Outdoor Recreation

### **Sustainable Energy Development and Natural Resources**

The BLM supports an “all of the above” energy development approach, fulfilling the Administration's promises to facilitate domestic energy production, generate revenue, and support jobs in the energy sector. Oil, natural gas, coal, and other mineral resources generate the highest revenue values of any uses of the public lands from royalties, rents, bonuses, sales, and fees.

The Administration's commitment to a comprehensive “all of the above” energy strategy is demonstrated with a \$29.1 million request for the Renewable Energy program. The request continues the BLM's timely processing of leasing and development applications for geothermal energy, and rights-of-way (ROW) and leasing applications for wind and solar energy and transmission lines connecting to renewable energy-related projects. To date, the BLM has approved a total of 127 renewable energy projects with the potential to provide nearly 18,000 megawatts of generation capacity. Laws enacted in most western States require energy companies to supply a portion of their energy from renewable resources. As a result, the BLM anticipates a continued interest in public lands for renewable energy development.

Onshore oil and gas production on BLM-managed public lands contributes to the Nation's energy supply and plays a significant role in supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs for hard-working Americans. The BLM has approximately 26 million surface acres currently under lease for oil and gas development, including over 96,000 active wells on about 24,000 producing leases. The BLM oversees onshore oil and gas development on Federal lands and lands held in trust for the benefit of various Tribes. Collectively, these lands contain world-class deposits of energy and mineral resources, which power millions of homes and businesses and support the broader economy. The Department of the Interior Economic Report for FY 2017 estimates the Federal onshore oil and natural gas program alone provided approximately \$59.6 billion in economic output and supported approximately 284,000 jobs nationwide.

Revenues generated from the public lands represent one of the Federal government's largest sources of non-tax revenues, benefitting local communities as well as the U.S. Treasury, providing a significant source of funding to many States and to the U.S. Treasury, and providing direct benefits to the U.S. taxpayer and local communities. In FY 2018, production from Federal

lands generated in excess of \$3.0 billion in Federal royalties, rental payments and bonus bids. Approximately half of this revenue was shared with the State where the oil and gas and coal activities occur, while the rest went to the U.S. Treasury. States and counties utilize these important funds to support the building and maintaining of roads, schools, and other community needs.

Under the Department's commitment to responsible energy development, the BLM consistently conducts quarterly oil and gas lease sales, as required by the Mineral Leasing Act. In calendar year 2018, BLM State offices generated over \$1.1 billion from oil and gas lease sales, an amount nearly equal to the BLM's discretionary budget for FY 2018. This also represented the highest-grossing year on record for onshore lease bonus bids, nearly tripling the collections received from BLM oil and gas lease sales held in 2008, the previous high year. The 28 oil and gas lease sales held in calendar year 2018, resulted in 1,412 parcels leased, covering almost 1.5 million acres.

The BLM is also working diligently to improve its permitting process and our efforts are generating real results. In FY 2018, the BLM approved 3,991 Applications for Permit to Drill (APDs) on Federal and Indian lands. By prioritizing permitting, modernizing databases, and shifting resources across the BLM offices, the average APD processing time for an administratively complete application continues to drop – now averaging 63 days spent with the BLM (compared to an average of 120 days in FY 2017) and 176 days overall.

The 2020 budget reflects the continuation of actions the BLM has taken to streamline responsible impact analysis while consulting with stakeholders associated with such development. The BLM requests a total of \$198.4 million in discretionary funds for the Energy and Minerals Management portfolio to maintain the commitment to attaining American energy independence. Within the Energy and Minerals portfolio, the budget requests \$137.3 million in discretionary funds for oil and natural gas production activities, which includes permitting, inspection, and enforcement. The budget estimates an additional \$53.1 million in permanent appropriations will also be available to support oil and gas permitting activities.

The BLM continues to invest in national economic development and the West's mining communities by proposing \$19.8 million for the Coal Management Program and \$12.3 million for programs associated with the mining of other minerals such as precious metals, trona, limestone, phosphates, sand, and gravel. The funds would be used to streamline program activities, expedite processing of applications, and provide for more timely inspection and enforcement actions.

The BLM is proud of the priorities established over the past two years, and the many policies we have implemented to promote sustainable and responsible energy and mineral development from the Nation's public lands.

### **Active Forest Management and Being a Good Neighbor**

The budget request reflects the Administration's priority of restoring regulatory balance, expanding access to public lands, and enhancing public trust and being a good neighbor in the communities that are home to BLM lands. On the heels of one of the Nation's most devastating wildland fire seasons, the Budget supports the important objectives laid out in President Trump's Executive Order 13855, *Promoting Active Management of America's Forests, Rangeland, and Other Federal Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk*. The BLM budget prioritizes active forest management as necessary to achieve the targets set forth in the E.O., and invests \$10.2 million in 2020 for forest management on public domain lands. The 2020 BLM budget also requests \$107.0 million in the Oregon and California Grant Lands appropriation, much of which will lay the groundwork to increase the amount of timber offered for sale there to 280 million board feet (MMBF) in 2021, reflecting the BLM's commitment to advance timber production and forest health. Approximately 226 MMBF were sold in 2018.

In tandem with the Budget, the Administration is proposing a package of forest management legislative reforms, which includes categorical exclusions for fuels management work. These authorities will promote shared stewardship across ownership boundaries and improve the ability to treat additional acres more efficiently and effectively, thereby reducing fire risk and making meaningful progress toward resilient landscapes and fire-adapted communities. This will provide the Bureau with the necessary tools to help protect firefighters and communities from wildfire by emphasizing forest management strategies that significantly increase resilience from wildfire, insects, disease, and drought, as well as support timber harvests and biomass utilization.

### **Conserving Our Land and Water Resources**

The BLM continues to focus on high priority work across the Land Resources, Wildlife and Aquatics, Recreation Management, and Resource Protection and Maintenance activities. These activities support many of the Department's high priority goals, including energy independence, expanded recreation, and shared conservation.

Balancing habitat conservation and responsible development of public land resources ensures the best outcome for the people and wildlife that rely on these lands. The BLM's 2020 budget request builds on the results of ongoing efforts including implementing "outcome based grazing" and sage grouse management plan amendments, which better align Federal habitat conservation efforts with State wildlife management plans.

The BLM will invest \$7.0 million in habitat identification and habitat restoration efforts across multiple programs, which will help implement Secretarial Order 3362, *Improving Habitat in Western Big-Game and Migration Corridors*. This funding will be used in coordination with States to support big game as well as evaluation and implementation of habitat restoration.

In addition, the 2020 budget request provides \$92.0 million for the Rangeland Management program. To better leverage resources and focus funding on more complex grazing permit processing requirements, the BLM will continue to use the authority provided under section 402(c) of the FLPMA. The BLM administers about 18,000 grazing permits and leases within almost 22,000 grazing allotments on approximately 155 million acres of public land. Grazing permits are generally issued for ten years, which means that renewing grazing permits is a cyclical process and not a one-time event. The BLM will continue efforts to improve and streamline grazing permit processing to achieve greater efficiencies and service to permittees while striving to meet land condition objectives. The BLM plans to continue or expand recent demonstration projects using Outcome Based Grazing Authorizations.

Finally, the budget seeks \$75.7 million for the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro program, which in 2020 will continue to identify innovative ways to address the burden that growing wild horse and burro populations put on fragile rangeland resources and taxpayer resources. The program will seek to increase public/private partnerships to place more animals into private care while also working with organizations to create private/public partnerships on pasture or sanctuary lands. The program will also work with academia and Federal partners to enhance existing sterilization methods and fertility control vaccines, and develop new population controls through research projects, and continue to pursue adoptions and sales, including incentivizing adoptions.

### **Expanding Outdoor Recreation**

The BLM is committed to the Administration's priority of expanding access for the American public to the vast recreation resources on BLM-managed public lands, including enhancing opportunities for hunting, fishing, and many other uses.

In 2018, DOI records indicate visitor recreation exceeded 67 million visitors on public lands, and it is estimated in 2020 the BLM will exceed over 70 million visitors. Visitors to these lands enjoy countless types of outdoor adventure – participating in activities as widely varied as camping, hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, boating, whitewater rafting, hang-gliding, off-highway vehicle driving, mountain biking, wildlife viewing, photography, climbing, many types of winter sports, and visiting remarkable natural and cultural sites.

Currently, the BLM manages over 3,600 developed recreation sites and areas; administers over 4,500 permits for commercial, competitive and organized group activities; and provides the

public with thousands of miles of motorized and non-motorized trails. Recreational experiences are especially important in the growing West and contribute to local economies.

The FY 2020 budget request promotes a holistic approach to managing our recreational lands and cultural resources, which will be implemented through more streamlined recreational and cultural resources management. The budget proposes \$54.8 million for Recreation Resources Management to meet the growing public demand and will focus on areas in need of visitor services at the highest visitation sites.

The budget also includes \$37.1 million for the National Monuments and National Conservation Areas program to manage designated historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest on the public lands, and to support outstanding recreational opportunities and public access.

The Cultural Resources Management program, which supports the inventory, protection, and stabilization of BLM cultural sites will receive \$15.6 million in FY 2020. The program will continue to provide support and guidance on consultation with Tribes to other BLM programs.

### **Modernizing the BLM**

In 2018, the Department announced the designation of Interior's 12 new unified regional boundaries. Establishing unified regional boundaries across Interior bureaus will improve Interior's service delivery to the public. Within each shared region, bureaus will focus work on the same resources and constituents and improve coordination across the Department. For the public, fewer regions make it easier to do business with Interior, particularly when it involves several bureaus or jurisdictions. The FY 2020 budget request includes an increase of \$7.7 million to support implementation of the Department's reorganization efforts.

### **Conclusion**

The President's FY 2020 budget request for the BLM provides sustainable benefits across the West and for the Nation. The BLM takes pride in its collaborative efforts to promote responsible energy production that helps create and sustain jobs and secure American energy independence, increase access and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities nationwide, and to maintain productive working landscapes for grazing and timber. I look forward to working with the Subcommittee to provide the BLM with the tools and resources necessary to achieve these important Administration objectives.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

**STATEMENT OF WALTER CRUICKSHANK  
ACTING DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT,  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
ON THE 2020 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET REQUEST  
APRIL 4, 2019**

Chair McCollum, Ranking Member Joyce and Members of the Subcommittee, I am pleased to appear before you today to discuss the 2020 Request for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). Thank you for inviting me to appear here today with my counterparts from the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE). BOEM coordinates and collaborates with BSEE in a variety of ways on a daily basis to ensure effective management of offshore energy activities.

The Administration's America First Offshore Energy Strategy calls for boosting domestic energy production to stimulate the Nation's economy and to promote national security, while providing for responsible stewardship of the environment. Implementation of these goals aligns with BOEM's mission, the statutory mandate for which is provided principally by the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Lands Act. BOEM is responsible for managing the development of our Nation's offshore energy and mineral resources in an economically and environmentally responsible manner. BOEM accomplishes this mission through oil and gas leasing, renewable energy development, and marine mineral leasing, all of which are guided by rigorous, science-based environmental review and analysis. BOEM helps support the Administration's goal to increase domestic energy production by providing access to OCS resources through programs that enable exploration and production of offshore oil and gas resources and facilitate renewable energy development. As a result, BOEM plays an important role in advancing the Administration's comprehensive approach to expanding responsible domestic energy resource development as part of a broader effort to secure the Nation's energy future, benefit the economy, enhance national security, and create jobs.

BOEM manages access to and, as required by statute, ensures fair market value or fair return for OCS energy and mineral resources to help meet the Nation's energy demands and mineral needs, while also balancing such access with the protection of human, marine, and coastal environments. As the Nation's offshore energy and mineral resource manager, BOEM administers comprehensive analyses to inform decisions about where, when, and whether offshore energy and mineral development can or should occur.

The 2020 Request supports ongoing efforts and important initiatives that are vital to BOEM's mission and critical to advancing Administration priorities, including the goal of moving the United States from simply aspiring to energy security to actually achieving it.

## **THE 2020 REQUEST**

The 2020 Request proposes \$193.4 million for BOEM operations, including \$56.5 million in offsetting collections (approximately \$54.4 million from rental receipts and over \$2 million from cost recovery fees). The 2020 Request includes a net increase in BOEM's total budget authority of \$22.4 million over the 2019 CR baseline level. BOEM's 2020 Request reflects a careful analysis of the resources needed to further advance the Administration's priorities and develop the Bureau's capacity to execute its mission carefully, responsibly, and efficiently. It reflects increases that will support Administration priorities, including implementing the new National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program (National OCS Program), advancing renewable energy leasing activities, and initiating an OCS Critical Mineral Inventory.

BOEM's 2020 Request builds upon recent accomplishments and supports critical ongoing efforts.

### ***Conventional Energy***

BOEM's conventional energy budget supports a broad range of responsibilities related to offshore oil and gas leasing and development activities. For conventional energy, this begins with the responsible preparation of the National OCS Program. BOEM's work includes assessments of the oil and gas resource potential on the OCS, inventories of oil and gas reserves, and economic evaluations of OCS submerged lands to ensure the receipt of fair market value for U.S. taxpayers from OCS leasing and development.

In particular, the 2020 Request supports increases to BOEM's budget for pre-lease activities, specifically the implementation of a new National OCS Program, which is foundational to the Nation's energy strategy.

Consistent with Executive Order 13795 – *Implementing an America-First Offshore Energy Strategy* – BOEM initiated efforts to develop a new National OCS Program during FY 2017, and these efforts continued through FY 2018 and into FY 2019. BOEM initiated the public process in July 2017, with a Request for Information, on which it received more than 800,000 comments. BOEM analyzed these comments and gave them careful consideration when developing the 2019-2024 National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program (DPP), which was announced in January 2018. The DPP proposes 47 potential lease sales for consideration in 25 of the 26 OCS planning areas – the largest number of lease sales ever proposed for the National OCS Program's five-year lease schedule. This DPP would make more than 98 percent of undiscovered technically recoverable OCS oil and gas resources available for oil and gas leasing consideration. It is also the first time in 35 years that virtually the entire OCS has been analyzed under the provisions of the OCS Lands Act and the National Environmental Policy Act at this stage in the program development process, providing the Secretary the most comprehensive and up-to-date information on which to base decisions. During the 60-day public comment period on the DPP, BOEM received more than 2 million comments. BOEM has again taken these comments into careful consideration during the development of the Proposed Program, which the Bureau anticipates publishing in the coming weeks. Once the Proposed Program is published – along with the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement – the public will have 90

days to provide comments. Those comments will then be analyzed and considered for the Proposed Final Program, which will be submitted to the President and Congress for a 60-day review period prior to final approval.

Until a new National OCS Program has been approved by the Secretary and takes effect, BOEM will continue implementation of the current 2017-2022 National OCS Program. BOEM has conducted four Gulf of Mexico-wide lease sales under the current program, which including Gulf-wide lease sale 252 on March 20, has resulted in more than \$668 million in high bids.

The increases in the budget support additional economic modeling, determination of fair market value for sale bids as well as enhanced fair market value tools, coordination and implementation of offshore leasing strategy activities, and lease sale and data management. They will also allow BOEM to conduct the extensive outreach with stakeholders that will be required to implement such a Program. It should be noted that at the time the 2020 Request was developed, the Proposed Program had not been finalized; it still has yet to be published. This Request is not intended to presume a particular Secretarial decision on the new National OCS Program.

In addition to the new National OCS Program implementation, the 2020 Request also supports other high priority offshore oil and gas development activities. Following the development of a transparent, systematic, and comprehensive schedule for oil and gas resource offerings, BOEM is responsible for: implementing the lease sale process; developing appropriate financial terms to ensure the Nation receives fair market value for its OCS resources; administering leases; and, conducting an in-depth review of exploration plans, development and production plans, development operations coordination documents, and geological and geophysical permits. BOEM must also ensure lessees have sufficient resources to fulfill lease obligations, including decommissioning facilities at the end of their productive life. Additionally, BOEM is responsible for producing and maintaining the official offshore cadastre for the OCS.

As of March 1, 2019, BOEM manages about 2,612 active oil and gas leases on over 13.8 million OCS acres. In 2018, offshore federal production reached approximately 644 million barrels of oil and 986 billion cubic feet of gas, almost all of which was produced in the Gulf of Mexico. This accounted for about 16 percent of all domestic oil production and 3 percent of domestic natural gas production. Annually, this production generates billions of dollars in revenue for the U.S. Treasury, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Historic Preservation Fund, and state and local governments, while supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs. Revenues generated from offshore conventional energy leasing and production activities are a significant source of revenue for the Federal Government. In FY 2018, conventional energy generated \$106 million in rent, \$229 million in bonuses, and \$4.3 billion in royalties from OCS production.

### ***Renewable Energy***

In recognition of the role renewable energy can play in securing the Nation's energy independence and supporting economic growth, BOEM has been working to advance renewable energy through an expanded and targeted leasing program and review of developers' plans for offshore wind projects on existing leases. The 2020 Request supports BOEM's growing

renewable energy program and includes an increase of \$500,000 to plan for a second renewable energy lease sale in FY 2020.

To date, BOEM has conducted eight competitive wind energy lease sales for areas offshore the Atlantic coast and there are 15 active commercial wind energy leases offshore of Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, and Virginia. If fully developed, these leases could generate enough energy to power over 6.5 million homes. BOEM is in the planning stages to identify additional potential lease areas offshore California, Hawaii, New York/New Jersey, and North/South Carolina. BOEM is also making progress on siting demonstration and technology testing projects for wind and marine hydrokinetic energy offshore on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. In FY 2018, \$4 million in rent payments were collected on OCS renewable energy leases. BOEM estimates annual rent payments to increase in FY 2019 to over \$5 million per year. To date, including the December 2018 Massachusetts renewable energy lease sale, which resulted in approximately \$405.1 million in bonus bid revenue, BOEM has generated over \$473 million in bonus bids from renewable energy lease sales it has conducted through the competitive leasing process.

An aggressive renewable energy leasing strategy requires extensive planning and analysis, and partnerships with states, other governmental agencies, and stakeholders. As such, BOEM's 2020 Request funds the work of 14 intergovernmental renewable energy task forces consisting of representatives from federal, state, local, and tribal governments. The task forces facilitate intergovernmental communications regarding OCS renewable energy activities to ensure that information needs, multiple-use concerns, and associated solutions are identified early in the leasing process. Throughout the entire process, including early planning, leasing, and then review of lessee plans, BOEM strives to engage stakeholders who might be impacted by potential activity, including fishermen. This outreach and interaction is conducted through meetings; workshops; and soliciting stakeholder input into project siting, best management practices, and research and monitoring measures. Specific to mitigating potential impacts on fishing, BOEM requires that developers provide a fisheries liaison and has also published guidance to lessees regarding fisheries communication plans, which BOEM continues to evaluate based on feedback received from the fishing industry. As interest in renewable energy increases, BOEM will continue these robust outreach efforts.

In support of renewable energy goals of coastal states, funding proposed in FY 2020 enables BOEM to expand its renewable energy leasing activity, including potentially in BOEM's Pacific planning areas, thereby advancing offshore renewable energy commercial leasing on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. It will also provide an opportunity to add millions of dollars to the U.S. Treasury annually through the collection of additional bonus bids and future rents. Through detailed planning and analysis and partnerships with other governmental agencies and stakeholders, BOEM's Renewable Energy Program is meeting the needs of our constituents nationwide and will continue to do so in FY 2020.

### ***Marine Minerals***

Pursuant to the OCS Lands Act, BOEM is the steward of OCS sand, gravel, and shell resources. The 2020 Request emphasizes the importance of BOEM's work in this area by proposing a new

Marine Minerals budget activity. BOEM oversees the conveyance of OCS marine minerals, which are used in support of coastal resilience projects, including hurricane recovery and response, beach nourishment, and coastal restoration activities, all of which result in the restoration of hundreds of miles of coastline; protection of billions of dollars of infrastructure; and protection and restoration of important ecological habitat. To date, BOEM has conveyed the rights to 150 million cubic yards of OCS sediment by executing 55 leases for projects in eight states that have restored 339 miles of coastline.

While the Bureau's marine mineral work so far has mostly been along the Atlantic Coast and in the Gulf of Mexico, interest in OCS sand and gravel resources in other areas has been growing. For this reason, the 2020 Request proposes funding to initiate a marine mineral project offshore Alaska's North Slope. However, because resources in this particular area may also include critical minerals important to U.S. manufacturing and technology, BOEM will leverage this funding to support assessments of both sand and critical minerals.

There is an urgent need to identify submerged lands that have high economic potential but low ecological value, making them suitable for further exploration and leasing. Accumulations of minable deposits of detrital heavy minerals containing critical minerals are either known or potentially present at several locations offshore Alaska. The funding would enable BOEM to initiate an OCS Critical Mineral Inventory to assess the Nation's supply of critical minerals, potentially reducing vulnerability to economic disruption, as well as negative national security impacts caused by a lapse in imports. As the sole steward of these finite, public resources, it is imperative that BOEM improve its knowledge of where critical mineral resources are available on the OCS in order to manage their use effectively.

### ***Environmental Programs***

As stated in the Administration's America-First Energy Plan, the need for energy must go hand-in-hand with environmental stewardship. BOEM is responsible for assessing the impacts of, and providing effective environmental safeguards for, OCS energy and mineral resources exploration and development. BOEM develops, funds, and manages scientific research to inform these assessments and provide the foundation for sound, science-based policy decisions that help BOEM manage offshore energy and mineral resources in an environmentally and economically responsible manner.

The 2020 Request supports mandated analysis and research that provide information about the potential environmental impacts of OCS energy and mineral resource development and offer measures to prevent, mitigate, and monitor these impacts. In accordance with Executive Order 13807 – *Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure Projects* – BOEM is conducting its environmental analyses in a transparent, coordinated, and streamlined fashion and ensuring that decisions are informed by the best available science.

A large portion of the environmental work BOEM performs is in support of the National OCS Program. The 2020 Request provides significant increases specifically for the implementation of the new National OCS Program. The planning and execution of anticipated lease sales requires

environmental studies, which provide the foundation for science-based decisions within the new National OCS Program, as well as environmental analyses, outreach, and coordination with stakeholders. Due to the potential scope of the new National OCS Program, more environmental studies are necessary to address data gaps in baseline information within frontier areas, in addition to the studies needed within more mature areas, such as the Gulf of Mexico. These resources will also support NEPA analyses, stakeholder engagement on sale-related environmental impact statements, Endangered Species Act Section 7 and Essential Fish Habitat consultations, and Coastal Zone Management Act coordination.

Environmental program funding supports the scientific research needed to inform policy decisions regarding energy and mineral development on the OCS. BOEM facilitates top-quality research by talented scientists from a range of disciplines that is targeted to support BOEM's decision-making and policy needs and priorities. The valuable data collected through BOEM's environmental efforts are used not only within BOEM, but also by other federal agencies, state governments, and other stakeholders. To generate more information at a lower cost by pooling resources, BOEM leverages funds and expertise through partnerships within the Department and with other federal agencies, states, and academic institutions. Combining resources to satisfy common scientific needs is a central component of BOEM's approach to gathering robust scientific information for its decisions and consultation processes. From FY 2013 to FY 2018, BOEM provided over \$80 million to federal partners to conduct BOEM-designed scientific environmental work to support its programs.

The National OCS Program, including its environmental component, is a priority for BOEM, and its implementation will help put the United States on a path towards greater energy security and prosperity. In whole, the 2020 Request supports the balanced management of OCS resources, thus encouraging offshore energy exploration and production, while ensuring that any activity is safe and environmentally responsible.

## **CONCLUSION**

BOEM plays a vital role in advancing the Administration's comprehensive approach to expanding responsible development of all forms of domestic energy resources as part of a broad effort to secure the Nation's energy future, benefit the economy, enhance national security, and create jobs. In a time when serious fiscal constraints demand difficult tradeoffs, we appreciate the critical resources provided this fiscal year. It is important to build on this level of investment moving into the next fiscal year, and the 2020 Request reflects a careful analysis of the resources needed for the Bureau to carry out the important mission with which we are charged.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to testify here today, and for your consistent support for BOEM's programs. I look forward to our continued work together and to answering your questions.

**STATEMENT OF SCOTT ANGELLE**  
**DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT,**  
**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**  
**BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES**  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS**  
**ON THE 2020 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET REQUEST**  
**APRIL 4, 2019**

Chair McCollum, Ranking Member Joyce, and Members of the Subcommittee, I am pleased to join you today to discuss the President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 budget request for the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), a bureau of the Department of the Interior. We welcome the Subcommittee's interest in our efforts to promote offshore safety and environmental protection. It is our firm belief that our Nation's demand for the energy resources it needs today should be met by a supply that is developed safely, sustainably, and domestically.

As the Administration works to support and promote sustained domestic energy exploration and production, the BSEE is taking the necessary steps to foster safe and responsible offshore energy operations in order to secure reliable energy production for America's future. BSEE's strategic goals reflect the Bureau's commitment to safety, environmental stewardship, energy security, organizational agility, people, transparency, and engagement.

BSEE actively promotes the safe, and environmentally-sustainable exploration, development, and production of America's offshore energy resources through a program of appropriate standards and regulations, efficient permitting, robust inspections, effective compliance monitoring and enforcement, rigorous technical assessments, and thorough incident investigations. BSEE's budget fully supports the President's America-First Offshore Energy Strategy by ensuring that development of the Nation's vast offshore energy resources is conducted in a safe and environmentally-sustainable manner.

In recent years America has seen ever increasing levels of production offshore, with calendar year (CY) 2017 surpassing previous records by more than 18 million barrels. Approximately 50 percent of the total offshore oil and natural gas production in 2017 came from just 11 facilities, all in deepwater.<sup>1</sup> Despite these increased levels of production, the number of injuries and incidents offshore have shown steady decreases, realized through a new era of management and a focus on safety performance and environmental stewardship.

In 2018, offshore oil production increased to approximately 644 million barrels, representing 16 percent of total U.S. crude oil production. The vast majority of that production – 99 percent – occurred in the Gulf of Mexico. It should be noted, however, that offshore production occurs in

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<sup>1</sup> 1,000 feet of water depth or greater.

two distinct sections – shallow water and deepwater. In CY 2018, 89 percent of all OCS production occurred in deepwater, a substantial increase from the year 2000 when deepwater production accounted for 50 percent of all OCS production. Development in the shallow water areas of the Gulf of Mexico OCS, first drilled in 1947, is mature and is experiencing drastic reductions in the number of wells drilled and resources produced. As a result, this portion of the Gulf of Mexico continues to see significant infrastructure removal that BSEE is also responsible for managing.

The transition from shallow water to deepwater development also presents challenges to BSEE. As development moves into deeper waters, the size, complexity, and distance from shore of facilities increases while the overall number of facilities predominantly responsible for offshore production decreases. Ten years ago, 37 facilities produced 50 percent of the total Gulf of Mexico production. However, in 2017, 50 percent of Gulf of Mexico production came from only 11 facilities.

## **STRATEGIC GOALS**

As the Administration works to support and promote domestic energy production, BSEE is taking the necessary steps to foster safe and responsible offshore oil and gas operations in order to secure reliable energy production for America’s future. BSEE’s strategic goals reflect the Bureau’s commitment to safety, environmental stewardship, energy security, organizational agility, people, transparency, and engagement.

Ensuring safe and environmentally-sustainable energy exploration and production remain central to BSEE’s mission. To continue to fulfill its mission and advance American energy security, it is important for BSEE to prepare for, and adapt and respond to, changes in the industry throughout the lifecycle of offshore energy development. BSEE is committed to the continual advancement of the effectiveness of its inspection program, enhancing its permitting processes around greater quality assurance and consistency, reforming overly burdensome regulations, and ensuring high levels of preparedness in the event of oil spills. BSEE must also prepare for new challenges presented to the agency through the increase in deepwater and ultra-deepwater facilities; increased interest in exploration in frontier areas such as the Arctic; and the assumption of a new role in the safety and environmental sustainability of offshore renewable energy.

During FY 2018 BSEE developed and implemented its 2019-2022 Strategic Plan and identified several “Director’s Change Management” Action Plan initiatives that have and will guide the Bureau. The action plan initiatives are focused on creating an organization that has strong and smart programs and processes moving forward. A few of the specific initiatives include incorporating a risk-based inspections (RBI) protocol in the BSEE inspection strategy; implementing a quality assurance/quality control permitting system while evaluating the

permitting processes and time frames to ensure efficient use of resources; and addressing recommendations from the Government Accountability Office (GAO), the Office of Inspector General (OIG), and other outside organizations. The plan initiatives provide a systematic approach to the achievement of the FY 2019-2022 Strategic Plan goals.

## **FY 2020 BUDGET OVERVIEW**

The 2020 budget request for BSEE is \$200.5 million, including \$129.9 million in current appropriations and \$70.6 million in offsetting collections from rental receipts, cost recoveries, and inspection fees. The total FY 2020 estimate of \$70.6 million in offsetting collections assumes an increase of \$3.0 million from the FY 2019 CR Baseline level for rental receipts and a \$286,000 decrease for inspection fee collections. Total funding assumes the cancellation of \$5.0 million in prior year balances.

The 2020 request enables BSEE to continue to enhance oversight, regulatory, and research capabilities on the OCS by building and sustaining staff capacity. Outreach and dialogue with stakeholders from academia, industry, non-governmental organizations, and other governmental agencies enhances the knowledge base of technical personnel related to innovative technologies, appropriate regulatory application, real-time monitoring capabilities, and risk-based decision making for safety and environmental enforcement.

To better reflect offshore activity, in FY 2020, BSEE is proposing the addition of an inspection fee for non-rig units, which it has proposed for each of the preceding three budget years. When Congress initially authorized BSEE to collect inspection fees as part of the FY 2010 appropriations bill, most well operation activities were conducted by “drilling rigs”. As the industry has changed, BSEE has seen the increased use of “non-rig” units (e.g., coil tubing, wireline, snubbing, and hydraulic workover units) as a lower cost alternative for work once conducted only by “drilling rigs”. Specifically, the operations of these “non-rig” units have increased from 23 “non-rig” units in October 2012 to 64 “non-rig” units in October 2018. As a result of the increased use of “non-rig” units, the number of “non-rig” inspections has increased significantly between FY 2014 and FY 2018.

To better align inspection activity with the collection of facility inspection fees, in FY 2020 BSEE is also proposing language that would allow for the quarterly billing of facility inspection fees, as opposed to the annual collection process now used. BSEE believes this proposal will provide for a more equitable administration of the Bureau’s collections.

## **FY 2020 BUREAU PRIORITIES**

The proposed 2020 budget request will support the following Bureau priorities:

### *Risk-Based Inspections*

The 2020 request includes a \$5.5 million program increase so BSEE can further expand its Risk-Based Inspection (RBI) program in order to focus inspection resources on higher-risk facilities; enhancing the monitoring of facility and operational risk profiles; ensuring companies are adequately assessing risks; and developing the means for the continued improvement in risk management offshore to improve safety.

### *Improving Inspection Program Efficiency*

BSEE is committed to ensuring its inspection program operates at the highest level of effectiveness, while continuously exploring ways to increase the overall efficiency of the program. Implementation of BSEE's revised inspection strategy approach began in FY 2019, with the roll out of a tiered approach to ensure that the Bureau meets its requirements, fulfills regional and national priorities, and uses its workforce effectively. Additionally, during 2018 BSEE increased the physical inspection time offshore through our eRecords initiative. This initiative has led to an approximately 6.1 percent increase in physical inspection time offshore, resulting in an increase in the number of inspections in 2018 by five percent over the same period from 2016.<sup>2</sup> Implementation of the refined inspection strategy reduces overall costs and allows BSEE's inspectors to conduct a more efficient, thorough, and critical physical inspection of components ensuring the safety of personnel and the protection of the environment. BSEE will continue to refine its inspection strategies to better reflect the actual risks and phases of development on the OCS, thereby improving overall safety oversight while reducing any unintended impediments to the development of America's offshore oil and gas resources.

### *Enhancing Capacity, Ensuring Accountability, and Assessing Risk*

BSEE will also continue strengthening its mission capacity and ensuring accountability through ongoing implementation of key management tools. In FY 2018 and FY 2019, BSEE revised its Enterprise Risk Management framework to better integrate management initiatives such as internal control reviews, program evaluations, audits, risk assessments, policy and procedure compliance, and a formal vital statistics and performance measures program.

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<sup>2</sup> Observed increases described when comparing inspection activity levels from CY 2016 and CY 2018 for the period encompassing April 1 to December 31 of each year.

Enhanced integration of these initiatives supports stronger communication and decision making within the Bureau. This effort was complemented by another FY 2019 activity in which BSEE continued its annual review of internal policies and procedures, building on the findings from its FY 2018 review, and expanding to better track training, compliance, and accessibility of these policies and procedures. In FY 2020, BSEE will have a mature policy program that emphasizes consistency, accuracy, and accountability. Also in FY 2019, BSEE is building out its program evaluation capacity to include expanded reviews of core high-risk functions in the BSEE regions, as well as undertaking a review of the Bureau's overall strategic risks. BSEE will expand on these evaluation efforts in FY 2020 to ensure continued mission support and accountability.

### *Domestic and International Engagement*

Through FY 2019 and continuing into FY 2020, BSEE will continue to enhance its collaborative efforts both domestically and internationally. BSEE engages regularly with its international counterparts in order to promote the safe and environmentally-responsible development of offshore energy resources globally. BSEE has established itself as a leader in international cooperation, actively participating in multilateral forums such as the International Regulators Forum; the Arctic Offshore Regulators Forum; the International Offshore Petroleum Environment Regulators group; and the Arctic Council bodies, such as the Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Working Group. BSEE's roles in preparedness activities at the international scale span work in both temperate and Arctic waters. The Bureau is taking a leadership role to better understand the viabilities of traditional oil spill cleanup strategies in different environments. Additionally, BSEE places a priority on maintaining strong bilateral relationships with a number of international partners.

In addition to the priorities outlined above, I would like to highlight the following BSEE programmatic initiatives and improvements:

- BSEE is implementing a quality assurance and quality control system for its permitting program to evaluate the consistency of its permitting processes as well as the time requirements and efficiency of the review process.
- BSEE has evaluated opportunities to increase ethics education across the Bureau and is implementing methods to improve ethics and integrity programming.
- BSEE has either drafted or updated 170 internal governance documents over the last two years to ensure we are meeting our responsibilities to promote safety and protect the environment.

- BSEE has begun preparations for its role with regard to offshore renewable energy including: engagement with the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) on the designation of BSEE as the primary regulatory and enforcement agency for offshore wind workplace safety and health; and, identifying regulatory improvements and guidance to clarify requirements and alleviate burdens on offshore wind developers.
- BSEE has obtained commitments from operators to participate in the Bureau's voluntary offshore near-miss and equipment failure reporting system known as SafeOCS. Operators signing written agreements to submit reports now account for over 85% of offshore production – a significant increase from the 4 percent rate of participation at the start of CY 2017.
- In order to continue to advance its mission, BSEE is establishing an Evaluation Branch to expand the Bureau's capacity for evaluating how we implement our core functional areas at the regional and district levels.
- BSEE continuously evaluates the employee training needed and provided for all of its employees. With respect to its inspection staff, BSEE has hired a contractor to assess training needs and assist the Bureau in the implementation of an inspector certification program.
- BSEE is developing a proprietary application for smartphones to be used by the public to crowdsource the reporting of offshore oil sheens. The mobile application is expected to have the ability to accept anonymous reports of surface sheens that include photographs, GPS coordinates, and time of submission for any identified hydrocarbon or chemical release.
- Contractors represent 80% of the industry's offshore workforce. To ensure that BSEE is able to communicate important safety alerts to the entire offshore workforce, BSEE is developing a direct text message service for offshore oil and gas workers to alert them to newly published safety alerts and bulletins. Workers will have the opportunity to opt into the service in 2019.

## CONCLUSION

The achievements and improvements described herein represent important milestones in BSEE's efforts to promote offshore safety, and to protect life, property, and the environment. These efforts have led to improvements in offshore performance demonstrated by the decrease in offshore incidents we observed in FY 2018. However, despite these achievements, activity on the OCS still poses significant challenges to safety and environmental protection. Deepwater

operations are not only expected to grow in number, but also in complexity. This will increase both the number of hours and technical capabilities required to conduct our oversight operations. Decommissioning of offshore facilities also represents a new challenge to the Bureau and a new set of safety and environmental risks to address.

In closing, the BSEE FY 2020 Request will continue to support the safe and environmentally sustainable production of energy from our Nation's offshore resources. I thank the Committee for inviting me to appear today. I would be pleased to answer any questions.

**STATEMENT OF TARA SWEENEY  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY – INDIAN AFFAIRS  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT,  
AND RELATED AGENCIES  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
ON THE 2020 PRESIDENT’S BUDGET REQUEST  
FOR INDIAN AFFAIRS PROGRAMS  
April 30, 2019**

Good morning Chair McCollum, Ranking Member Joyce and members of the Subcommittee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Department of the Interior (DOI) regarding the President’s Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2020.

The President’s 2020 budget for Indian Affairs is \$2.8 billion – this total includes funding for BIA, BIE and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs (AS-IA). As the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, I oversee the program offices within the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), and additional programmatic functions within the immediate AS-IA Office. I also wanted to acknowledge that during the 2019 appropriation process, DOI requested and Congress approved the transfer of the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians from the Office of the Secretary to the Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs. This re-alignment within the Department will enhance planning and coordination of policies and services related to Indian Country and I look forward to making this transition a smooth one.

Indian Affairs is the principal Executive Branch component entrusted to fulfill Federal trust and treaty responsibilities to the 573 federally recognized Indian Tribes. In doing so, our programs directly serve the nearly two million individual American Indians and Alaska Natives in the United States – including trust asset management, social service programs, and law enforcement services. Indian Affairs is a principal funding source for Tribes and tribal entities executing self-determination contracts and self-governance compacts under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. Our programs are a core component of community development and social provision in Indian Country. We strive to implement our programs in a manner that respects tribal sovereignty and fosters strong government-to-government relations.

Our leadership at the Bureau of Indian Education works tirelessly to provide quality education to all native youth. The BIE manages a school system which includes 169 elementary and secondary schools and 14 dormitories. Our Indian education program delivers education services to 47,000 students across 23 States. Additionally, the BIE also operates two post-secondary schools and administers grants for 31 post-secondary institutions. Our BIE Director, and supporting staff, are all committed public servants dedicated to delivering the best education possible, in a culturally relevant manner, to our tribal students.

One significant highlight of our 2020 budget is the separate requests submitted for BIA and BIE. This is the first time each bureau has had a separate budget submissions. Our rationale for doing so is to address the cumbersome processes by which simple, yet critical, operations are implemented within the BIE school system. Early in my tenure as the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, my staff and I determined the BIE has not been sufficiently empowered to manage its own operation and maintenance functions. This is a key contributing factor to our native students experiencing subpar education and unacceptable school conditions. In many instances, simple procurement or service processes required direct action from every major component of Indian Affairs’ – the BIE, BIA, and the AS-IA Office. This budget separation will empower both the BIE and the BIA to more directly, and independently, focus on their respective core missions while avoiding redundancy and duplication.

I know many of these issues are familiar to the Subcommittee members and the resulting operational difficulties have been identified many times by Congressional committees and the Government Accountability Office. To that end, I am committed to working with you, Chair McCollum, and the rest of the Committee to advance our shared priorities for Indian Country, and to improve education and service delivery to our native students, tribal governments, and individual tribal citizens nationwide.

### **Bureau of Indian Education**

The FY 2020 budget request for the Bureau of Indian Education programs within the Department totals \$936.3 million.

### **Operation of Indian Education Programs**

The 2020 budget provides \$867.4 million for Operation of Indian Education Programs. This newly created account includes existing programs formerly in the Operation of Indian Programs BIE activity. In 2020, priority is given to programs that directly support classroom operations at BIE-funded elementary and secondary schools and post-secondary tribal colleges and universities, consistent with BIE’s Strategic Direction.

*Elementary and Secondary Programs* – The request includes \$726.8 million to support base funding for the 169 BIE elementary and secondary schools and 14 dormitories providing educational services to 47,000 individual students in 23 States. The budget proposes \$20.9 million for Early Child and Family Development and \$14.3 million for Education Program Enhancements. The budget continues to promote educational self-determination for tribal communities and requests \$81.5 million to fully fund the calculated Tribal Grant Support Costs need for Tribes that choose to operate BIE-funded schools.

*Post-Secondary Programs* – The request includes \$98.0 million for Post-Secondary programs to operate two post-secondary institutions, administer grants to 29 tribal colleges and universities,

and fund two tribal technical colleges. The request preserves funding for core services, and reflects the full transition of Haskell and SIPI funding to forward funding.

*Education Management* – The request includes \$42.6 million for education management. Funding includes \$32.3 million for Education Program Management (EPM), an increase of \$7.3 million, which will enable BIE to build much-needed capacity in acquisition, school safety and repairs, performance tracking, and technical support to the field. The request also includes \$10.3 million for information technology to support the wide area network infrastructure and other systems used by BIE-funded schools.

*Tribal Priority Allocations* – The 2020 budget proposes Tribal Priority Allocation funding of \$16.1 million.

### **Education Construction**

In addition to support from the Administration's Public Lands Infrastructure Fund legislative proposal, the President's budget includes \$68.9 million in annual funding for Education Construction. The budget includes \$62.8 million for facility improvement and repair at existing schools. Available funding from prior years will complete school construction on the 2004 school replacement list and continue design/build construction for schools on the 2016 school replacement list. The budget includes \$5.1 million for BIE employee housing repair and new funding of \$1.0 million for employee housing replacement. In 2020, BIE will continue to manage new construction activities through a reimbursable agreement with Indian Affairs.

### **Fixed Costs**

Fixed costs of \$1.9 million are fully funded in this request.

This FY 2020 budget supports classroom instruction, and prioritizes programs serving the broadest number of students. The 2020 budget request aligns resources with management responsibilities, addresses recommendations of the Government Accountability Office and the DOI Office of the Inspector General and will provide BIE the autonomy and accountability needed to improve service delivery to, and by, BIE-funded schools.

### **Bureau of Indian Affairs**

The mission of the Bureau of Indian Affairs is to enhance the quality of life, promote economic opportunity, and carry out the Federal responsibility to protect and improve the trust assets of American Indians, Indian Tribes, and Alaska Natives.

The request for BIA and the AS-IA Office is \$1.9 billion in current appropriations. Within this total, the budget prioritizes base funding for Tribes and provides full funding for estimated Contract Support Costs, a total of \$285.9 million; an additional \$2.5 million for law enforcement

priorities such as combating opioids; and \$45.6 million for water settlements to enable the Department to meet Federal responsibilities outlined in enacted settlement with Indian Tribes.

**Operation of Indian Programs** - The 2020 budget for the Operation of Indian Programs account is \$1.5 billion. In general, the 2020 budget gives priority to base program funding.

### **Promote Tribal Self-Determination**

The 2020 budget provides \$326.0 million for programs that support tribal government activities. Within this, the budget includes \$178.9 million for self-governance compact activities for self-governance Tribes and \$75.3 million to support Consolidated Tribal Government Programs for Tribes operating under P.L. 93-638 contracts.

*New Tribes Funding* – The budget includes \$1.3 million to continue Federal support for six Virginia Tribes federally recognized by an act of Congress in January 2018.

*Contract Support Costs* – The 2020 funding for Contract Support Costs is \$285.9 million. The request fully supports estimated needs assuming BIA program funding at the 2020 request. The President’s budget continues to request funding for CSC in a separate indefinite current account to ensure full funding for this priority.

### **Protect Indian Country**

*Public Safety Programs* - The 2020 budget includes \$409.2 million for Public Safety and Justice Activities, of which \$376.7 million directly supports 191 law enforcement programs and 96 corrections programs run both by Tribes and direct services. The budget includes \$30.9 million for Tribal Courts and \$22.3 million for Tribal Justice Support programs, which include Violence Against Women Act training and implementation strategies critical to the protection of women in Indian communities.

Specifically with regards to the opioid epidemic plaguing out communities, the President has made it a focal point of his Administration to address and combat this crisis. This request also includes \$10.0 million, a \$2.5 million increase, to address the opioid crisis, which has been particularly devastating in Indian Country. This initiative expands BIA capacity to address the increase in drug-related activities through interdiction programs to reduce drug use, distribution, and drug-related crime. The initiative will also support the Office of Justice Services participation in intra- and inter-agency initiatives. Targeting opioid and substance abuse prevention efforts will, enable BIA to better align, leverage, and coordinate with other Federal efforts and resources to combat the opioid crisis.

### **Support Indian Communities**

*Support Economic Opportunities* – In support of efforts on domestic energy dominance and

economic development, the 2020 budget funds the Community and Economic Development activity at \$44.4 million and features investments in Indian energy activities, including development on tribal lands. Income from energy and minerals production is the largest source of revenue generated from natural resources on trust lands, with energy and mineral revenue of over \$1.0 billion paid to tribal governments and individual mineral rights owners in 2018.

*Human Services Programs* – Sustaining families is critical to fostering thriving Indian communities. The Human Services activity includes \$143.0 million for programs providing social services which includes \$74.7 million for Welfare Assistance, and \$64.9 million for Social Services and Indian Child Welfare Act protections.

### **Manage Trust Resources and Lands**

*Natural Resource Programs* – The 2020 budget proposes \$184.1 million for natural resource management programs which include agriculture, forestry, water resources, and fish, wildlife and parks activities.

The budget includes \$54.8 million for BIA Forestry programs supporting the Administration’s active forest management reforms through management of Indian forest lands by 300 Tribes across 18.7 million acres. The funding supports the development, maintenance, and enhancement of forest resources in accordance with sustained yield principles included in forest management plans. The budget also includes \$14.5 million for Fish, Wildlife and Parks to support tribal activities in fisheries operations and maintenance, outdoor recreation, public access, and conservation enforcement and \$10.6 million for Water Resources management activities. The budget includes \$14.0 million for the Irrigation Operation and Maintenance program to support operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of Indian irrigation project infrastructure, including the Navajo Indian Irrigation Project; payments required by established legal directives; reimbursement to the Bureau of Reclamation for water storage costs; and continued delivery of water by and to irrigation systems.

*Real Estate Services Programs* – To meet our fiduciary trust responsibilities, the 2020 budget proposes \$122.0 million for real estate services programs. The budget supports the processing of Indian trust-related documents such as land title and records and geospatial data to support land and water resource use, energy development, and protection and restoration of ecosystems and important lands. The budget includes \$12.7 million for probate services to determine ownership of Indian trust assets essential to economic development and accurate payments to beneficiaries.

### **Land and Water Claims Settlements**

The 2020 budget proposes \$45.6 million to meet Indian settlement commitments. Settlements resolve tribal land and water rights claims and ensure Tribes have access to land and water to meet domestic, economic, and cultural needs. Many of the infrastructure projects supported by these

agreements improve the health and well-being of tribal members, preserve existing communities, and, over the long-term, bring the potential for jobs and economic development.

### **Infrastructure Investment**

*Construction* – The Indian Affairs 2020 budget proposes \$58.5 million for Construction activities, including funding for deferred maintenance projects for public safety and justice facilities, resources management infrastructure such as irrigation projects and dams, and regional and agency offices serving tribal programs and operations in Indian Country. Beginning in 2020, funding for Education Construction will be requested in a separate account established in the Bureau of Indian Education. The budget proposes \$17.8 million for Safety of Dams projects, \$13.1 million for irrigation projects, and \$12.0 million for construction related to telecommunications and regional and agency offices serving tribal programs and operations in Indian Country.

*Indian Country Roads* – The BIA maintains nearly 29,000 miles of paved, gravel, and earth surface roads; and more than 900 bridges. The 2020 budget includes \$34.9 million for Road Maintenance to support pavement and gravel maintenance, remedial work on improved earth roads, bridge maintenance, and snow and ice control.

### **Concluding Statement**

This FY 2020 budget supports the Administration’s commitment to empower tribal communities, improve quality of life, create economic opportunities, promote efficient and effective governance, preserve and foster cultural heritage, and steward natural resources. Interior’s programs maintain strong and productive government-to-government relationships with Tribes, helping to promote tribal nation-building and self-determination.