

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW

“We must shift our thinking away from short-term gain toward long-term investment and sustainability, and always have the next generations in mind with every decision we make.”

— Secretary Deb Haaland



As the steward of 20 percent of America’s lands, the Department of the Interior serves several important roles for America. As the manager of our country’s national parks, national wildlife refuges, and other public lands, Interior works with States, Tribal Nations, and other partners to conserve and steward the Nation’s natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit, use, and enjoyment of the American people. Interior’s programs are also helping to generate jobs, grow the economy, and build resilience to the challenges of our changing climate.

The President’s 2023 Budget Request for Interior maintains the Administration’s commitments to deliver jobs and economic growth, build resilience to climate challenges, advance a transition to clean energy, strengthen the Nation-to-Nation relationship with Tribal Nations, and work with partners to conserve lands and expand outdoor recreation opportunities. The 2023 budget continues to reflect the importance of science, diversity and inclusion, and collaboration between Federal, State, Tribal, and local partners in carrying out Interior’s important missions.

The 2023 Budget

The Department’s 2023 budget totals \$18.1 billion in current authority (\$17.5 billion in net discretionary authority)—an increase of \$2.9 billion, or

19 percent, from the 2022 continuing resolution. An additional \$340.0 million is accessible through a budget cap adjustment for wildfire suppression to ensure that funds are available in the event the regular annual appropriation is inadequate to meet suppression needs. The budget also provides an estimated \$10.9 billion in permanent funding in 2023. Within the increase for 2023, \$269.0 million will be used to cover fixed-cost increases, such as rent and Federal salary adjustments needed to maintain Interior’s core operations, which are carried out by more than 70,000 people living and working in every corner of the country.

The 2023 President’s Budget complements the landmark 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) (Public Law 117-58) investments now being implemented. The BIL provides the significant down payment needed to address longstanding health and safety risks from abandoned coal mines and oil and gas infrastructure across the country; accelerate completion of Indian Water Rights Settlement agreements; map and increase understanding of the Nation’s mineral resources; and build resilience of critical ecosystems, Tribal Nations, and communities to meet the challenges of critical drought and threats of wildland fires, which pose unprecedented risks across the country.

The 2023 President’s Budget allocates important mandatory funding investments available through

the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA), including \$1.6 billion for deferred maintenance projects through the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund (LRF) in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Park Service (NPS), and the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE). The 2023 budget allocates \$681.9 million in mandatory funding for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) programs, which includes \$294.8 million for voluntary land acquisition projects.

The 2023 President's Budget Request was prepared before enactment of the full-year 2022 appropriations bills. All comparisons in the detailed budget materials are shown against the amounts that would be available under a full-year continuing resolution in 2022.

Legislative Proposals

The 2023 budget request includes the following legislative proposals and technical budgetary adjustments.

Indian Water Rights Settlements—Enactment of the BIL makes \$2.5 billion available to advance completion of enacted Indian Water Rights Settlements managed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). In February 2022, the Department allocated \$1.7 billion for eligible settlements.

For 2023, the budget further proposes to provide mandatory funding of \$34.0 million annually over 10 years to Reclamation for ongoing operations, maintenance, and repair costs for previously enacted Indian Water Rights Settlements, and the Administration is interested in working with Congress on an approach to provide a mandatory funding source for future settlement costs.

Tribal Contract Support Costs—Contract Support Costs funding enables Tribes to assume responsibility for operating Federal programs by covering the costs to administer the programs. Consistent with the Administration's commitment in the 2022 President's Budget, the budget proposes to reclassify Tribal Contract Support Costs from discretionary to mandatory funding beginning in

2023. Interior's 2023 budget submission displays these requirements as fully offset proposed mandatory funding totaling \$409.0 million.

Payments for Tribal Leases—Section 105(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act provides that Tribes and Tribal organizations carrying out Federal functions under a self-determination contract or self-governance compact may enter into a lease agreement with the Department of the Interior for the tribally owned or rented facility used to carry out those functions. Consistent with the Administration's commitment in the 2022 President's Budget, the budget proposes to reclassify 105(l) lease agreement requirements from discretionary to mandatory funding beginning in 2023. Interior's 2023 budget submission displays these requirements as fully offset proposed mandatory funding totaling \$55.4 million.

Compacts of Free Association (COFA)—The Administration supports funding the renewal of our COFA relationships with the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and the Republic of Palau. Financial assistance under the COFA is scheduled to end after 2023 for the FSM and the RMI and in 2024 for Palau. The Administration will request necessary mandatory funding to be appropriated to the Department of State, with language calling for continued implementation by the Department of the Interior. The United States remains committed to its longstanding partnerships with the governments and the people of the Freely Associated States as we work together to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Injurious Species—The budget also supports congressional efforts to amend Title 18 of the Lacey Act to return the longstanding authority of FWS to prohibit interstate transport of injurious species. Recent incidences of injurious species, such as invasive mussels contaminating commercial products, demonstrate the need to restore this authority.

Addressing Climate Challenges and Building Resilience

Interior has unique responsibilities on behalf of our country to steward many of our lands, waters,

“We have been presented with a unique opportunity to collaborate and advance our shared priorities to build a better America. The infrastructure law invests in areas where we, working closely together, have a chance to make a better future for the people we serve in the areas of wildfire, drought, legacy pollution cleanup, and restoration of the outdoors that we all love.”

–Secretary Deb Haaland

DOI Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding

In November 2021, President Biden signed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), a once-in-a-lifetime investment in the Nation's infrastructure and economic competitiveness. The BIL invests \$30.6 billion to jump-start economic investment and address longstanding needs in Interior programs, including \$21.3 billion in 2022 and \$2.3 billion in 2023.

- \$8.3 billion for the Bureau of Reclamation to address drought and invest in water infrastructure and an additional \$50 million for the Department's Central Utah Project Completion Act
- \$11.3 billion for the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement to support reclamation of abandoned coal mines on State and Tribal lands
- \$4.7 billion for a new Orphaned Well Site Plugging, Remediation, and Restoration Program, which addresses orphaned oil and gas wells on State, Tribal, and Federal lands
- \$2.5 billion in mandatory funding for enacted Indian Water Rights Settlements
- \$1.5 billion for Wildland Fire Management to strengthen the wildland firefighting workforce, build fire resilience through fuels management and burned area rehabilitation treatments, and invest in research, infrastructure, and technology modernization
- \$455.0 million for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to restore important ecosystem areas and fish passages
- \$510.7 million for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to improve our understanding of mineral resources across the country through integrated mapping, the preservation and collection of geological and geophysical data, and a laboratory facility for energy and minerals research
- \$466.0 million for the Bureau of Indian Affairs to invest in Tribal climate resilience and infrastructure improvements
- \$905.0 million for the Office of the Secretary to launch a suite of ecosystem restoration programs, including grants to support State, Territorial, and Tribal efforts

Interior has moved quickly to implement these programs and make this funding available for investment in America. The following points highlight some of Interior's accomplishments since the BIL was enacted.

- The Department of the Interior launched a \$4.7 billion new program to cap and plug orphaned oil and gas wells to reduce methane emissions and create jobs. The first \$1.2 billion in funding is available to 26 States to create jobs cleaning up orphaned oil and gas wells across the country.
- DOI made nearly \$725 million in 2022 funding available to 22 States and the Navajo Nation to create good-paying union jobs and catalyze economic opportunity by reclaiming abandoned mine lands. The program will help communities eliminate dangerous environmental conditions and pollution caused by past coal mining.
- DOI announced more than \$167 million will go toward a new USGS laboratory facility to work on energy and mineral programs.
- FWS announced a record \$1.5 billion in annual funding through the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program to support State and local outdoor recreational opportunities and wildlife and habitat conservation efforts that were reauthorized by the BIL.
- Starting in December 2021, Reclamation announced application periods for hundreds of millions of dollars in BIL funding opportunities for water infrastructure. Funding opportunities for the maintenance of aging infrastructure and water recycling and desalination projects have been advertised, with more on the way during the remainder of 2022.
- DOI allocated \$1.7 billion in mandatory funding from the Indian Water Rights Settlement Completion Fund to fulfill terms of enacted Tribal water settlements.

and natural resources; provide essential scientific information about those resources; and uphold the Nation's commitments to American Indians and Alaska Natives. As such, Interior's programs

inherently include a focus on the climate crisis. Similar to farmers, ranchers, community planners, and disaster preparedness professionals across the country, Interior land and resource managers are



Vermilion Cliffs National Monument in Arizona.

BLM Photo by Bob Wick.

seeing climate-related changes on the ground and are working to address them. Worsening drought, increased weather risks, more extreme wildfires, profound threats to wildlife habitats, warming water temperatures, and new threats from invasive species are among the tangible challenges land and resource managers face right now.

The 2023 budget recognizes that Interior plays a crucial role in the whole-of-government approach to tackling climate change. The 2023 budget continues funding for the immediate challenges of the changing climate while laying the foundation to build America's resilience and promoting economic growth, creating good-paying jobs, and ensuring that 40 percent of the benefits of certain climate and clean energy investments accrue to disadvantaged communities.

Water Challenges

The effects of the current drought conditions in the West are severe and long lasting, and a full recovery will take multiple years. The challenges these communities are facing now will likely continue

through 2023. Drought analyses, combined with projections of future hydroclimate conditions, suggest that overall, drought severity and duration will increase across the West in the coming century. A growing risk to effective water management in the western United States is climate change. The BIL provides \$8.3 billion for Reclamation to invest over 5 years to build up America's ability to address pervasive drought conditions in the West. This work is underway with States, Tribes, and communities in the most drought-affected geographic areas to ensure predictable and sustainable water supplies.

Complementing this transformative investment, the 2023 budget includes \$1.4 billion for Reclamation programs and projects. The budget supports a suite of water conservation, recycling, and planning programs to help communities mitigate drought and climate change impacts. The 2023 budget includes \$62.4 million for Reclamation's WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) programs, which work cooperatively with States, Tribes, and local

communities as they plan for and implement actions to increase water supply. Cumulatively, projects funded through Reclamation's Water Conservation Program between 2010 and 2021 are expected to result in water savings of 1,588,556 acre-feet. One acre-foot, or 325,851 gallons of water, supplies enough water for a family of four for 1 year.

The budget includes additional investments to support drought-impacted areas of the West. For example, \$11.5 million is requested for the Lower Colorado River Operations Program to implement drought contingency plans and response actions to maintain elevations at Lake Mead. Another \$2.0 million is requested for water infrastructure investments along the Texas border, whereas \$5.0 million of the request within the Central Valley Project in California is specific to drought planning and resiliency efforts that will be implemented in coordination with the California Department of Water Resources.

Wildland Fire Management

In the United States, on average, more than 62,000 wildfires burn 7.5 million acres every

year. At the height of the 2021 wildfire season, every geographic area experienced large wildfires for extended periods. In 2021, Interior's wildfire managers saw that the intensity of fires increased earlier in the year and required elevated levels of fire preparedness for longer periods. The Nation remained at Preparedness Level 4 or 5 for a record 99 consecutive days, requiring a significant commitment of firefighters and firefighting resources over an extended period. Communities and wildland firefighters across the West felt the devastating impacts of these changing fire patterns.

The 2023 budget request for the Wildland Fire Management (WFM) account is \$1.5 billion, including \$340.0 million in wildfire suppression resources in the Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund, which was authorized by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141). The Reserve Fund ensures the availability of sufficient funds above the appropriated amount for suppression in the event of a severe fire season. The budget includes \$477.2 million for Preparedness. This budget request will provide resources for Interior to increase firefighting capacity, continue



NPS funds an Ancestral Lands Veteran Fire Corps that employs and trains veterans in wildland firefighting operations.

NPS Photo.

the transformation to a more permanent and professional wildland fire workforce, and support pay and compensation reforms, including the President's commitment that Federal firefighters are paid at least \$15 per hour. The budget proposes \$304.3 million for Fuels Management and \$20.5 million for Burned Area Rehabilitation. The budget request for Fuels Management will enable Interior to increase the pace and scale of fuel treatments by proactively addressing wildfire risk on Federal and Tribal lands and reducing carbon emissions. This discretionary request complements the \$218.6 million investment in Fuels Management and Burned Area Rehabilitation available through the BIL in 2023 to address the significant need for this work. The budget funds Suppression Operations at \$383.7 million, in accordance with Division O of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141).

Using Science to Help Build Resilience

The 2023 budget leverages the science of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to address real, on-the-ground climate challenges facing communities. For instance, USGS proposes to invest \$2.0 million in 2023 to design and deliver tools to help Federal resource managers and adjacent communities minimize climate risk by providing them the opportunity to evaluate resilience enhancement options and the associated risk reduction benefits to communities. Another \$2.0 million investment supports wildland fire response planning and decisions. USGS proposes to integrate advanced understanding and data regarding systems (ecosystems, invasive species, climate change, post-fire impact and risk) with models of fire behavior and on-the-ground and remotely sensed data on the current state of wild-fires, fuels and vegetation, weather, hydrology, and other factors to support managers working to make communities and landscapes more resilient.

Building Resilient Communities

Communities across the country are considering the changing climate not only as in the context of disaster preparedness but also as they plan long-term infrastructure and program investments. Interior programs support these efforts in a variety of ways. USGS manages the Groundwater and Streamflow Information Program, which maintains a nationwide network of streamflow and

water-level information from more than 11,000 sites. The budget includes \$117.0 million for this program. The information from the network is available online to help natural resource managers, scientists, and emergency managers across the country with monitoring for floods and drought and with forecasting water availability for natural resources and crops. The budget also includes \$60.9 million for the USGS Coastal and Marine Hazards and Resources Program, which provides information that informs long- and short-term planning and mitigation of the impacts of climate change to the Nation's coastlines.

The budget includes \$61.0 million for Interior's Tribal Climate Resilience program to support Tribes in climate resilience planning, assessment, and adaptation activities. The program also funds planning and design work for Tribal communities evaluating the need for or pursuing climate-related relocation. The budget includes \$117.3 million for Assistance to Territories, which supports the Insular Areas through the provision of basic services as well as targeted investments related to climate change, including \$3.5 million for work related to coral reef ecosystems and other natural resource needs and \$15.5 million for clean energy projects and grid infrastructure improvements.

The 2023 budget for USGS includes \$10.0 million to support a climate information portal. The portal would integrate climate-relevant Federal data, tools, and information to help Tribal, State, and local governments; communities; and commercial entities understand potential climate-related hazards and guide infrastructure investment decisions and other efforts to build resilience to extreme events equitably and inclusively. Entities could use this research enterprise portal to explore the potential impact of climate hazards among human populations, economies, and built and natural environments; assess vulnerability and risk and determine which risks require actions; evaluate and evolve building standards and designs to help ensure that new infrastructure and capital improvement projects are climate resilient; and prepare climate impact assessments.

Resource Stewardship

The 2023 budget includes increased focus on natural resource management across the Department to improve the resilience of the lands Interior manages. The 2023 budget includes \$4.9 billion across Interior to support the restoration, conservation, and improvements needed for healthier lands, waters, and ecosystems and their resident species. Healthier lands are more resilient to the effects of the changing climate, and investments that are made now will help ensure that the unique and spectacular lands and resources Interior manages endure for future generations. Within this funding is \$174.2 million across the Department to address invasive species, including targeted early detection and rapid response efforts. Invasive plants and animals outcompete native species, disrupt ecosystem function and deplete resources, exacerbate hazards such as fire and landslides, damage infrastructure, and spread wildlife and human disease.

Collaborative Conservation Task Force

In February 2022, the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture joined the Western Governors Association to launch a Task Force on Collaborative Conservation. The Task Force will work to enhance collaboration across Federal, State, and local jurisdictions and provide a forum to work together to more effectively respond to the land, water, and wildlife challenges facing western landscapes. The Task Force will support cross-boundary coordination on issues such as wildfire mitigation, invasive species control, and habitat restoration; it will also help strengthen coordination and implementation for priority conservation programs and policies, including those affecting wildlife corridors, wildfire and drought resilience and response, and forest and rangeland restoration. It will also contribute to the America the Beautiful initiative by supporting the voluntary stewardship efforts of ranchers, farmers, and other private landowners to keep working lands working.

The America the Beautiful Initiative

Interior plays a critical role in helping the Administration's America the Beautiful initiative meet the President's ambitious goal to work with States, Tribes, Territories, private landowners, local communities, and other partners to conserve 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030 to help address the climate crisis and its impacts on

nature. This initiative will help strengthen the economy, address the interconnected climate and biodiversity crises, and advance environmental justice and people's access to nature.

In 2023, America the Beautiful builds on those efforts and other broadly supported actions to advance land and water conservation in a manner that is locally led, is guided by science, honors Tribal trust and sovereignty, and is respectful of landowners. The implementation of this initiative continues to rely on broad engagement, including that of hunters, anglers, outdoor enthusiasts, private landowners, Tribal Nations, States, territories, and local officials. These important partners and stakeholders drive the strategies that reflect the priorities of all communities.

In 2023, through the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, NPS will provide free, on-location help to communities working to create and restore parks and conservation areas. Completed projects have helped restore rivers, wildlife habitat, and impaired resources and have improved outdoor recreation opportunities to meet changing demands. Through Tribal Climate Adaptation Grants, BIA supports Tribes and Tribal organizations with planning, capacity building, and actions to address climate risks. With climate change disproportionately affecting the Arctic and northern areas of the United States, the program's planning and data development awards alone are estimated to benefit more than 440,000 Alaska Native people.

Building on the conservation efforts of the previous Administration, Interior is working to further the goals of Secretary's Order 3362 to enhance migration corridors and winter range for elk, mule deer, and pronghorns in the West; this work includes a grant program, administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, for projects that improve big game habitat through voluntary efforts on private and Tribal lands.

The 2023 budget invests across the Department to support partnerships that encourage conservation. For example, FWS includes funding to broaden support for habitat restoration on private lands that are located along migration corridors

and waterways through Candidate Conservation Agreements with partners. The budget includes \$20.4 million for the Candidate Conservation program and \$67.4 million for the FWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife program, which assists private landowners who are interested in restoring and enhancing wildlife habitat on their lands.

To support the collaborative conservation work called for in the America the Beautiful initiative, the budget includes \$25.5 million to establish an American Conservation Stewardship Atlas, which will build upon existing USGS Federal lands data to include information from partners, including State and local governments, about their land and resource conservation efforts. The Atlas will draw from collaboration with partners and consolidate information on conservation, stewardship, and restoration activities to better understand and measure ongoing conservation and restoration. USGS will lead an interagency working group and work with State, Tribal, and nongovernmental partners to update and collect data on conservation status and develop analytics to gain a greater understanding of ongoing partnership conservation and restoration efforts.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

The investments made through the LWCF directly support the objectives of the Administration's America the Beautiful initiative by encouraging conservation and outdoor recreation opportunities in cities and towns across the country. The GAOA established permanent, mandatory funding for the LWCF totaling \$900.0 million a year. The LWCF provides funding to the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture to acquire lands to be managed by NPS, FWS, BLM, and the U.S. Forest Service. The program also supports several important grant programs to encourage local conservation and recreation investments.

The 2023 budget proposes to allocate \$681.9 million for Interior's LWCF programs. This funding includes \$294.8 million for Interior land acquisition and \$387.0 million for grant programs. Interior's land acquisition programs prioritize projects with strong local partnership engagement, protect at-risk natural or cultural resources, and



Red kit foxes in Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge in Delaware.

FWS Photo by Jennifer Cross.

advance the missions of the bureaus. Funding for LWCF grants features \$326.9 million for State LWCF grants, with an estimated \$125.2 million in additional funding anticipated from revenue derived from certain offshore oil and gas sales in the Gulf of Mexico. A table of LWCF funding and a detailed list of 2023 proposed LWCF land acquisition projects are provided in Appendixes D and E, respectively.

Creating Jobs to Meet Environmental and Energy Challenges

Interior programs supported an estimated 1.9 million jobs in the U.S. economy in 2019, according to the most recent Department of the Interior Economic Contributions Report. Those jobs were driven primarily by Interior's work in the areas of energy and minerals, recreation and tourism, irrigation and other water-related activities, and grants and payments.

Interior's 2023 budget continues these core activities and includes additional investments that

complement funding made available through the GAOA and the BIL, which are targeted to boost economic and job growth. The President’s Budget proposes growth in areas that position the country to be more competitive in the changing economy and environment.

Clean Energy Jobs of the Future

Interior is working hard to meet the President’s ambitious goal to deploy 30 gigawatts (GW; 30,000 megawatts [MW]) of offshore wind energy by 2030 to fight climate change and create nearly 80,000 jobs. To provide context for the Administration’s ambitious wind energy goal, earlier this year, Secretary Haaland commemorated the groundbreaking of the second commercial-scale offshore energy project approved for Federal waters, which will have the capacity to generate 130 MW of wind energy—enough to power more than 70,000 homes and businesses. The South Fork wind energy project will be located offshore Rhode Island and New York. In addition, nine additional project reviews were initiated in the first year of the Biden-Harris Administration.

Interior’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) expects to complete the review of at least 16 plans to construct and operate commercial, offshore wind energy facilities by 2025, which—once in operation—would represent more than 22 GW of clean energy generation capacity for the Nation. As of February 2022, BOEM has approved 2 construction and operations plans for active leases, is actively processing 11 additional plans, and expects to receive 7 more new or significantly updated plans over the next 12 months. As of February 2022, BOEM oversees 18 active commercial wind energy leases in the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). If fully developed, these 18 leases could support approximately 27 GW of power to supply nearly 9.5 million homes. BOEM held the New York Bight offshore wind sale on February 23, 2022, offering six lease areas totaling more than 488,000 acres for potential wind energy development. The sale resulted in winning bids from six companies totaling \$4.37 billion, which was the Nation’s highest grossing competitive offshore energy lease sale in history, including oil and gas lease sales. The Administration is also preparing

for lease sales offshore the Carolinas and California in 2022 and is actively working with States, Tribes, ocean users, and key stakeholders to plan sales in the Gulf of Mexico and offshore the U.S. Central Atlantic coast in 2023. Additional planning is underway for potential lease areas offshore Oregon and Hawaii and in the Gulf of Maine. The 2023 budget includes \$51.7 million for BOEM’s Renewable Energy programs and \$7.7 million for the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) to establish an offshore renewable energy inspection and regulation program.

Onshore, the Administration’s clean energy goal is to permit 25 GW of renewable energy by 2025, as required by the Energy Act of 2020. Interior plays a central role in achieving this goal by carrying out environmental reviews for clean energy projects on our Nation’s public lands, conducting meaningful consultations with Tribal Nations, and assessing potential impacts to species. To help achieve this



Lime Wind Energy Project in Oregon.

BLM Photo.

goal, the 2023 budget includes \$49.7 million for BLM's Renewable Energy program, which will focus on expanding the number of Renewable Energy Coordination Offices to specialize in permitting for renewable energy projects on public lands. To further improve coordination across the Government, Interior has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, and Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency to streamline clean energy reviews. The BLM Resource Management Planning program also includes funding to support the siting of renewable energy projects on public lands.

BLM has prioritized and is actively processing dozens of large-scale renewable energy projects and transmission lines; as of March 2022, the bureau is working to complete the environmental review and permitting for 60 utility-scale onshore clean energy projects proposed on public lands. This effort includes 45 solar projects, 4 wind projects, 5 geothermal projects, and 6 interconnecting gen-tie lines that are vital to the feasibility of clean energy projects proposed on non-Federal lands. Combined, the 60 projects have the potential capacity to add more than 30,000 MW of renewable energy to the western electric grid. BLM also has approximately 60 applications that are still under initial or preliminary review, and the bureau has been receiving additional wind and solar applications weekly.

To facilitate the development of geothermal projects, the request includes \$3.6 million for USGS to characterize and assess domestic geothermal energy resources and work with partners to advance technologies to utilize those resources. Geothermal resources are a significant source of renewable electric power in the western United States and, with recent advances in technology, are becoming a potential source of a large fraction of baseload electric power. In addition, new geoscience and technologies are demonstrating geothermal resources' potential to provide district heating and cooling for much of the Nation. The Energy Act of 2020 directed USGS to develop a national geothermal assessment that would update the assessment published in 2008. Building toward that national assessment, USGS has launched

multiple initiatives in partnership with the Department of Energy to collect data on hidden geothermal systems, beginning in California and Nevada. Understanding the characteristics of those resources is essential to geothermal exploration and development and will help deploy renewable energy in a thoughtful, responsible, and economic manner.

Advancing a Clean Energy Future Through Federal Purchasing Power

One of the commitments announced by the Administration was to transition the Federal fleet of vehicles to 100 percent zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs). By leveraging the buying power of the Federal Government and transforming its fleet of more than 600,000 cars and trucks to an all-electric fleet, the Administration aims to accelerate America's industrial capacity to supply domestically produced ZEVs and electric batteries to create new good-paying jobs and address the climate crisis.

Interior's fleet includes approximately 30,800 vehicles located across the country. Interior owns 70 percent of the vehicles, 80 percent of which are light- to medium-duty trucks, vans, and sport utility vehicles. The 2023 budget includes \$61.9 million to accelerate the transition of Interior's fleet to ZEVs as part of a governmentwide initiative. Funding will support either acquiring ZEVs within the owned fleet or transitioning to the General Services Administration's leased fleet, investing in the related charging infrastructure, and making plans and integrating those plans to effectively support the initiative.

Balancing the Nation's Energy Portfolio

The 2023 budget includes \$478.9 million for oil and gas programs in BSEE, BOEM, and BLM. The budget for BSEE includes \$248.5 million for safety and environmental stewardship programs. The budget for BOEM provides \$63.6 million for conventional energy programs to support OCS planning, leasing, and oversight, including inventorying oil and gas reserves, overseeing ongoing activities, ensuring adequate financial assurances for decommissioning liability and risk management, developing and implementing the National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program (National OCS Program), reviewing and administering oil and gas exploration and development plans as well as geological and geophysical permitting, and conducting economic analyses and resource evaluations.

As required by section 18 of the OCS Lands Act, BOEM prepares the National OCS Program, which sets the schedule for proposed offshore oil and gas lease sales over a 5-year period. The National OCS Program is designed in a manner to best meet the Nation's energy needs while carefully considering factors to balance the potential for accessing oil and gas resources with the potential for adverse impacts from such activities.

The 2023 budget includes \$166.8 million for BLM's Oil and Gas Management program, including \$51.0 million for inspection fee activities. In addition to administering oil and gas leasing and ensuring environmentally responsible development, the budget request will allow BLM to remediate legacy well sites in the National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska. The 2023 budget proposes to offset the cost of BLM's Oil and Gas Inspection Activities program from appropriations to revenue from a new inspection fee.

Reclamation Jobs in Energy Communities

The BIL provides nearly \$16 billion, mostly for States and Tribes, to reclaim abandoned coal mine lands and orphaned oil and gas wells across the country. Both important investments will support needed jobs, address environmental hazards and risks, and restore lands for other uses.

The 2023 budget includes related—but not duplicative—funding to address reclamation needs not addressed through the BIL. The budget includes \$65.0 million in the Energy Community

Revitalization Program for abandoned hardrock or non-coal mine reclamation, which was authorized but not funded in the BIL. States and the Interstate Mining Compact Commission have indicated that abandoned hardrock mines can be found across the country, and many States do not have good inventories or strong programs to manage those sites. Interior has identified thousands of mines and features on its lands that pose safety risks and generate environmental contaminants. The 2023 program will include \$33.0 million for assistance and support to States, \$10.0 million for reclamation work on Tribal lands, and \$17.0 million to address reclamation and restoration on Interior lands.

BLM previously estimated that more than 51,000 abandoned hardrock mines are on BLM lands, and of that number, 10 percent have environmental impacts and 95 percent pose physical safety risks. In recognition of the 150th anniversary of the Mining Law of 1872, the Department has established an Interagency Working Group to comprehensively review hardrock mine permitting and oversight on Federal lands to help ensure that mining operations adhere to strong social, environmental, and labor standards. As part of this whole-of-government effort, the Department will host extensive public input and comment sessions on potential hardrock mining reforms.

To address the volume and complexity of abandoned hard rock mines on BLM lands, the 2023 budget includes \$62.2 million for Abandoned Mine Lands (AMLs) and Hazardous Materials

Abandoned Mine Land and Economic Revitalization (AMLER) Programs at Work

The Marions Branch Industrial Park in Pike County, KY, received \$5 million through AMLER, which is combined with \$43.5 million from national and regional investors, to expand digital technology infrastructure development. Work has been completed on a 50,000-square-foot industrial building, a broadband conduit, and foundation fill. Tens of millions of dollars have been committed from other sources and are currently being used on the ground. The infrastructure provided by the project will attract companies to the area, resulting in a stronger local

economy and long-term stability of the community. Project developers expect to attract more than 1,000 additional good-paying jobs to the area and stabilize the tax base of local communities.



Marions Branch Industrial Park in Pike County, KY.

OSMRE Photo.

Management. BLM's budget also includes \$29.4 million in the Oil and Gas Program to address Alaska Legacy Wells, which are the responsibility of Interior to address.

The budget for the Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation Enforcement (OSMRE) includes \$115.0 million for AML Economic Revitalization grants. This funding allows coal communities in States and Tribes with the greatest amount of unfunded AML problems to leverage mine land reclamation with local economic development.

Infrastructure

Interior manages an infrastructure portfolio valued at more than \$400.0 billion, which captures a variety of structures, including dams, storage buildings, and national icons. The Department is responsible for roughly 43,000 buildings, 100,000 miles of road, and 83,000 structures. Interior's funding focuses significantly on the operations, maintenance, renewal, and modernization of infrastructure, which directly helps create jobs and benefit local economies.

The 2023 budget includes more than \$2.8 billion to address the Department's infrastructure operations, maintenance, renewal, and modernization needs. Interior's annual request for infrastructure funding is in addition to the estimated \$1.6 billion in mandatory funding that is available to Interior each year through 2025 through the LRF included in the GAOA. These funds are available to address the Department's deferred maintenance backlog in NPS, FWS, BLM, and BIE schools. The U.S. Forest Service also receives up to \$285 million in LRF funding each year.

At the end of 2022, Interior's LRF program will have initiated 228 projects touching all 50 States; Washington, DC; Puerto Rico; and the U.S. Virgin Islands. When completed, these projects are estimated to address \$2.2 billion of Interior's deferred maintenance backlog, create an average of 18,000 jobs each year, and contribute an average of \$1.9 billion each year to the overall gross domestic product. The 2023 budget proposes to allocate another \$1.6 billion in project funds. A list of 2023 LRF projects is provided in Appendix C.

Maintaining America's Heritage

In 2022, the National Park Service (NPS) began to transform its facilities condition assessment process. This transformation will provide a more streamlined, comprehensive, consistent, and timely identification of estimated repair needs to maintain the NPS asset portfolio, including how it reports deferred maintenance and repair (DM&R). The new approach reduces the burden on parks and supports a more operationally useful assessment of the condition of and estimated deferred maintenance requirements for the NPS asset portfolio. This approach will improve the allocation of NPS infrastructure investments. NPS will calculate DM&R needs for its assets using three components: parametric condition assessments, a commonly used tool, for industry-standard assets; Federal Highway Administration assessments for transportation assets; and work orders for most other assets.

As NPS implements its process, Interior's other bureaus are exploring the lessons learned to improve their infrastructure investment processes. Historically, attention has focused on Interior's DM&R backlog as a proxy for infrastructure investment requirements, but mission fulfillment requirements also include operations, other maintenance, renewal, and modernization. This shift is part of an ongoing effort to manage Interior's assets to better direct limited resources to address more critical maintenance, renewal, or modernization needs. This approach aligns with Interior's longstanding investment criteria for asset management programs, which consider facility condition as merely one factor to ensure that assets can capably deliver mission requirements or other benefits.

Balancing Development and Conservation

Interior also plays a critical role in balancing conservation and the development needed for vibrant communities with strong economies. The 2023 budget includes \$152.8 million for the FWS Ecological Services Planning and Consultation program to support reviews and permitting of clean energy and other infrastructure and development projects. These investments will help facilitate consultation and permitting required under the Endangered Species Act. FWS works collaboratively with industry, agencies, Tribes, and other stakeholders to provide technical assistance that informs project development to help avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts on wildlife and habitats. The budget also includes \$12.3 million for the FWS Migratory Bird Management program to conduct activities to support development while

protecting migratory birds, notably iconic bald and golden eagles. These investments in the migratory bird management program will help modernize Interior’s permitting process to access the latest scientific and energy technology information when evaluating development proposals.

Civilian Climate Corps

The Civilian Climate Corps (CCC) is an important Administration initiative that draws on America’s strength to work together to revitalize public lands, waters, infrastructure, and communities—and, in doing so, create jobs. This initiative expands the Department’s longstanding partnership, apprenticeship, and youth engagement programs to restore Interior’s lands and waters, improve access to outdoor recreation, increase reforestation, and inventory cultural heritage and paleontology sites, among other activities. These programs provide job opportunities and experience, teach skills, provide

a pathway to employment, contribute to the resilience of unique lands and resources, and reflect the diversity of America. The 2023 budget includes \$60.0 million to expand these programs, provide program participants with a living wage, and put more people to work restoring public lands.

BIA has also established the Indian Youth Service Corps to conserve and protect Indigenous people’s natural and cultural resources through maintenance, research, resilience, and mitigation. Program activities align Indigenous traditional cultural values with projects that provide sustainable benefits for program participants and Tribal communities. The program expands BIA’s Pathways Internship Program, which targets American Indian and Alaska Native students for internships across seven BIA programs and complements the BIA CCC program.

Partnership and Apprentices Programs at Work

The National Park Service (NPS) Hawaiian Youth Ranger Program connects socially and economically disadvantaged high school youth with Pathways Program opportunities at the Hawaiian national parks. The targeted audience for this program is Native Hawaiians. Many of the DOI and the NPS goals, such as a commitment to public service and furthering the understanding and appreciation of our Nation’s natural and cultural resources, are advanced through the Youth Ranger Internship Program. The program also supports the Administration’s efforts to advance equity and racial justice and support underserved communities. Five former Youth Rangers are in permanent positions at Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park, and five others are moving toward their NPS careers in ongoing college Pathways positions.



2021 Interpretation Youth Rangers at Kilauea’s summit with mentor at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

NPS Photo.

To develop the next generation of lifelong conservation stewards and ensure its own skilled and diverse workforce pipeline, BLM Oregon-Washington has partnered with the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (OYCC) to provide hundreds of work and training opportunities to young people across the State. The Oregon Legislature established the OYCC in 1987 to emulate the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s and to provide a program to increase education, training, and employment opportunities for Oregon youth. The OYCC provides grants to local Youth Corps providers to run youth programs across the State serving individuals ages 13 to 24. These Youth Corps providers also serve as a valuable resource for developing programs; providing technical assistance; networking with other youth programs; and facilitating assistance in developing educational, service, and work projects with organizations such as BLM.



Members of the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps at Steens Mountain, OR.

BLM Photo.

Strengthening Tribal Nations

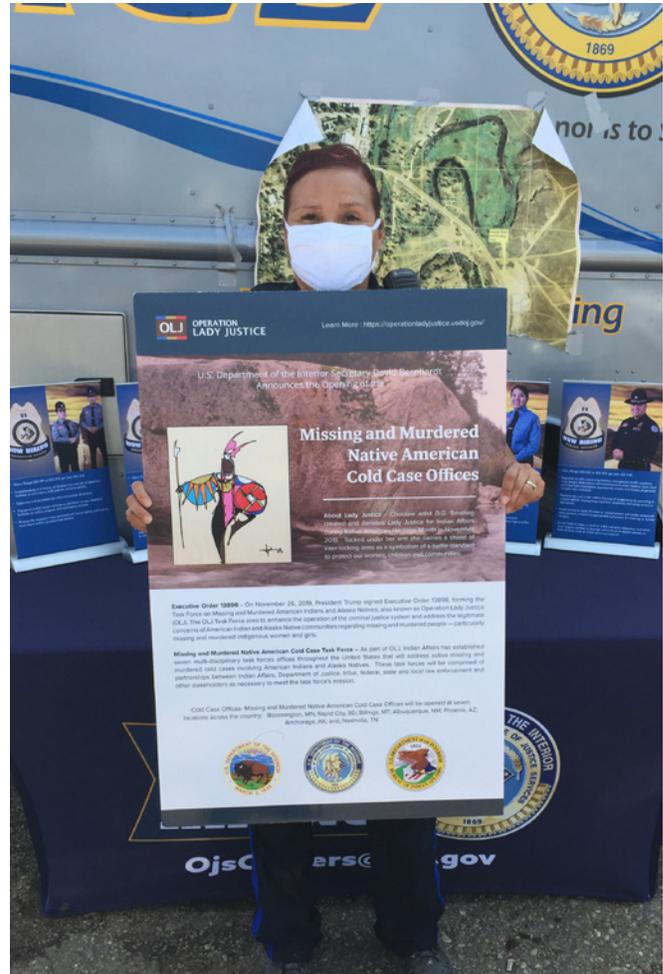
The Administration has made a strong governmentwide commitment to strengthen the Nation-to-Nation relationship with Tribes, honor Tribal sovereignty, advance equity and opportunity for all American Indians and Alaska Natives, and help Tribal Nations overcome new and longstanding challenges. Foremost among these priorities is ensuring meaningful Tribal consultation, including governmentwide consultation on the 2023 President's Budget in September 2021.

Interior's 2023 budget reflects the Administration's sustained commitment to Tribes with investments across the Department to support the inclusion of Tribes in addition to the \$4.5 billion in current authority (\$4.1 billion in net discretionary authority), which was proposed across all Indian Affairs programs. The budget expands many core programs and goes further to address outstanding gaps in areas such as improving environmental quality and ensuring that Tribal communities are part of the national priorities to address climate change and move toward clean energy.

The 2023 budget proposes to secure funding to meet ongoing requirements for Contract Support Costs and Payments for Tribal Leases by reclassifying these funds from discretionary to mandatory. The budget also proposes legislation that complements the \$2.5 billion investment in the BIL to accelerate completion of enacted Indian Water Rights Settlements. The 2023 budget proposal would provide \$340.0 million over 10 years as mandatory funding to support the operations, maintenance, and repairs associated with enacted Reclamation settlements. The Administration is interested in working with Congress on an approach to provide a mandatory funding source for future settlements.

Investing in Tribal Communities

The 2023 budget includes \$2.8 billion in current authority for BIA programs and features an investment of \$44.7 million to expand the Tiwahe Initiative. Under Tiwahe, a portion of the funding assists Tribes at selected sites to implement a tribally driven approach to deliver services more effectively and efficiently. The initiative facilitates



Tribal officer of the BIA Office of Justice Services displays a poster on Missing and Murdered Native American Cold Case Offices at the Crow Fair in Montana. BIA Photo.

collaboration within Tribal communities—which can help to leverage resources, share expertise, reduce duplication, and exchange information about families' needs—to formulate the most responsive approaches to provide services. Since 2015, the Tiwahe Initiative has focused primarily on promoting family stability through several Human Services programs. The Department's 2023 budget expands Tiwahe in Social Services, Indian Child Welfare Act, Tribal Justice Support, and Economic Development programs.

The \$562.1 million included in the budget for Public Safety and Justice programs reflects the priority and importance of these programs. This total includes \$282.4 million for boots-on-the-ground police services, \$127.0 million for the operation of Detention and Corrections programs, and \$52.7 million to support Tribal Courts. This funding includes \$10.0 million to

support a Departmentwide initiative to equip all Interior-funded law enforcement officers with body-worn cameras. The 2023 budget includes \$16.5 million to address the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People and \$70.3 million for Public Safety and Justice Construction to address infrastructure needs at BIA-funded detention and corrections facilities.

BIA's budget includes additional investments in Tribal communities in areas such as Tribal climate resilience, clean energy, road maintenance, environmental quality projects, Tribal broadband grants, and funding, which is expected to raise the minimum Small Tribe Supplement payment to a minimum of \$300,000 for existing eligible Tribes in this program. The budget also proposes \$14.8 million for the acquisition of new Tribal lands and \$80 million for Indian land consolidation to address the ongoing fractionation on Indian lands.

Healing from the Past and Looking to the Future

Beginning with the Indian Civilization Act of 1819, the United States enacted laws and implemented policies establishing and supporting Indian boarding schools across the Nation. The purpose of Indian boarding schools was to culturally assimilate Indigenous children by forcibly relocating them from their families and communities to distant residential facilities, where their American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian identities, languages, and beliefs were suppressed.

In June 2021, Secretary Haaland launched the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative to review the history of Federal boarding schools. For more than a century, the Bureau of Indian Affairs was involved in the operation of Indian boarding schools in the United States, and the Department is uniquely positioned to assist in the effort to recover this history. Interior has focused initial efforts of the initiative on Tribal outreach, collection and review of Department documents and records, and compilation of existing data in the Department's jurisdiction. The 2023 budget includes \$7.0 million to move forward with the initiative to conduct outreach, research, and documentation to locate potential gravesites at former school locations and to help ensure the remains of those who are found are identified and protected. Additional resources are included in the budget to increase funding for native language grants, which are essential to revitalizing this critical component of Native culture.

Advancing Indian Education

The 2023 budget includes \$1.6 billion for Indian Education programs to provide a strong educational foundation for Native children to succeed. Native students face stark inequities in access to education, many of which were highlighted and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. To help address this gap, the budget invests in the day-to-day operations of BIE-funded elementary and secondary schools. The budget includes \$500.6 million for the Indian Student Equalization Program formula funds, which provide the primary support for academic activities in the classroom, instructional services, and teacher training, recruitment, and retention. The budget includes \$146.4 million to operate and maintain BIE-funded schools and fully funds the estimated requirement for Tribal Grant Support costs to cover administrative costs for Tribes that choose to operate BIE-funded schools. The 2023 budget also features specific investments, including \$23.0 million to maintain support for distance learning and enhanced technology at BIE schools and \$4.0 million for Native language immersion programs.

The budget includes \$185.2 million for postsecondary schools and programs, including \$131.7 million for Haskell Indian Nations University and Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, Tribal Colleges, Universities, and Technical Colleges and \$53.5 million for expanded Tribal scholarships and adult education programs.

Addressing BIE-funded school facilities that are in poor condition and deferred maintenance backlogs at more than 180 schools in the BIE school system continues to be a top priority for the Department. The 2023 budget includes \$420.1 million in annual funding for Education Construction. An additional \$95.0 million in mandatory funding through the GAOA will also be available in 2023. The continued emphasis on BIE school infrastructure conditions has produced tangible results, with four new campuses opened to students in 2021 and another three schools to be completed in 2022. At present, one facility replacement project is under construction and eight schools are in various stages of planning and design.

Advancing and Incorporating Science Across Interior

Science is integral to the accomplishment of Interior's core mission activities. The 2023 budget includes more than \$1.4 billion for research and development programs across the Department, but the application of science is also essential in carrying out direct mission activities. FWS has integrated scientific information to help improve and streamline the environmental review process for Federal projects. The Consultation Package Builder leads agencies through development of biological assessments, and plans are in place to expand available data of species and their locations.

Interior's natural resource managers rely on science every day as they gather, analyze, and apply inventorying and monitoring data to inform stewardship decisions. The ability to examine data regarding the status of lands, waters, ecosystems, and the resident species plays an increasingly important role in understanding and building resilience to the effects of climate change. The 2023 budget includes funding to support adaptive management and applied science within the operating accounts of BLM, FWS, and NPS.

USGS is Interior's primary science organization, providing science and actionable information about natural hazards, natural resources, ecosystems and environmental health, mapping and land imaging, and the effects of climate change. The 2023 budget includes \$147.1 million for

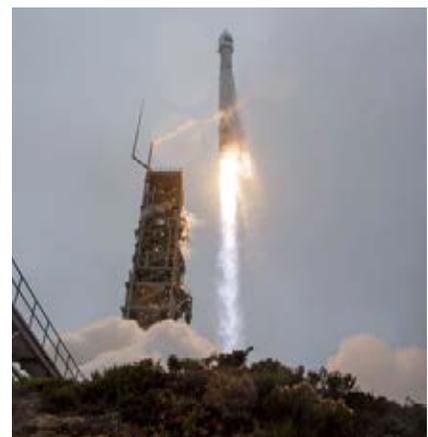
applied science in species management and land management, directly supporting the work of Interior bureaus. USGS also supports a network of Climate Adaptation Science Centers (CASCs), which promote scientific collaboration to tackle regional climate science challenges. The budget includes \$124.7 million for this work, which helps provide resource managers with the ability to integrate the best available science into everyday resource management. The newest CASC, hosted at the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment, will pay special attention to Tribal concerns and build off the unique and robust experience of Midwest Tribes with adaptation science and practice.

USGS science plays an important role in addressing significant challenges that have substantial societal and environmental impacts. Frequently, USGS science is paired with resource management expertise in Interior bureaus as well as with other Federal and non-Federal partners. An example of this collaboration is USGS' role in ongoing governmentwide work to address the problem of invasive carp. USGS research in this area supports early detection, risk assessment, and development and assessment of tools to control the number of invasive carp. Removal efforts using a USGS-developed method in Barkley Lake, KY, removed tens of thousands of pounds of invasive silver and bighead carp. Research testing on the effectiveness of an acoustic deterrent system at Lock and Dam 19 on the Mississippi River will support efforts to stop

Landsat 9—Up and Running

Landsat 9—a joint satellite mission between the U.S. Geological Survey and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration—was successfully launched in September 2021, ensuring continuation of the 50-year Landsat data record of Earth observations. The first images from Landsat 9 were released in November 2021. The imagery provided by Landsat 9 allows the public to visualize the globe's changing landscapes and supports public landowners, Tribes, and local and State authorities in their own planning and decision

making. These observations provide essential support to increase our understanding of changes occurring on the Earth. Landsat 9 continues to collect essential data on Earth's geologic formations, natural habitats, farmlands, cities, lakes, glaciers, coastlines, and other surface features. The groundbreaking technology of this newest satellite will provide imagery at landscape-scale resolution that can be used to support the Department's and the Nation's climate efforts.



NASA Photo.

the upstream expansion of invasive carp. Research on other deterrents, such as carbon dioxide, have proven effective against grass carp in laboratory tests. The 2023 budget includes \$47.9 million to continue the research on biological threats and invasive species.

Promoting Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion of Underserved Communities

The Administration is adopting a whole-of-government approach to advance equity, civil rights, racial justice, and equal opportunity. The Interior 2023 budget request supports the actions needed to recognize and redress inequities and to proactively advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility within the Department's workforce.

Strengthening Interior's Commitment to Diversity and Equity

The 2023 budget includes \$16.8 million as part of a Departmentwide Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility initiative. Funding will be used to increase capacity in the bureaus and in the Department's Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Civil Rights; Office of Human Capital; and Office of Collaborative Alternative Dispute Resolution to address the following:

- Improve Interior's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) adjudication, investigations, and processing of final Department decisions and increase EEO training across the Department;
- Expand capacity for alternative dispute resolution and EEO complaint mediation;
- Assess hiring programs to eliminate barriers to effective and inclusive recruitment; and
- Ensure consistent and equal pay for equal work.

In February 2022, Secretary Haaland established the first-ever Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility Council to prioritize equity and inclusion and to incorporate best practices into the Department's work across its many bureaus, programs, and services. The budget includes additional specific investments to expand the Office of

Diversity within FWS and to establish an Office of Equity and Inclusion within BOEM.

For far too long, environmental policy decisions have failed to adequately account for environmental injustice, including the disproportionate, disparate, and cumulative impacts pollution and climate change have on low-income communities and communities of color. To address those inequities, the Administration is working to implement the Justice40 initiative to ensure that 40 percent of overall benefits of certain Federal investments in climate and clean energy are directed to disadvantaged communities. Interior bureaus and offices have been working as part of governmentwide efforts to refine the criteria and metrics needed to implement this important initiative. The 2023 budget includes \$4.0 million for dedicated staff and technical support to provide programmatic expertise, coordination, and outreach support across the Department. These additional resources will enable the Department to implement the Justice40 initiative while quantifying the benefits and positive impacts of Justice40-covered programs on disadvantaged communities across the country.

Building a More Inclusive Agency

Interior is also working to make our mission programs and services more inclusive of diverse and underserved communities. The 2023 budget includes targeted investments to better connect with and be more responsive to new audiences. Examples of this effort in the budget include the following:

- The Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration program includes \$8.1 million to better address environmental justice issues.
- USGS includes \$800,000 to enhance scientific capacity partnerships through technical training internships with Tribes, Alaska Native communities, and underserved communities.
- FWS includes \$4.0 million for an expanded Native American Programs Coordination Office.
- NPS includes \$5.7 million to establish an

Office of Native American Affairs and support Tribal liaisons at national parks to strengthen partnerships and improve coordination with Tribal Nations and support the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience (NATIVE) Act.

The 2023 budget also expands ongoing programs that are working to connect new audiences to the outdoors and to Interior’s mission activities. For example, the FWS budget includes \$12.5 million for its Urban Wildlife Conservation program. This program leverages the 101 national wildlife refuges that are within 25 miles of an urban area through local partnerships. The program helps to connect the refuges to their local communities through outreach and programming, creating opportunities for the 80 percent of Americans who are living in urban areas to benefit from time spent in nature.

National Wildlife Refuges in Cities

In Minnesota, through the Twin Cities Nature Connections Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership, local youth and their families connect to their local wildlife refuge, the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, by engaging in educational and recreational activities and by restoring shoreline along the Minnesota River. These local students will meet academic goals and learn technical job skills while paddling canoes on the refuge, hiking, and restoring native plants.

In Texas, a partnership between the Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Independent School District and the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge restores school campuses to native habitats for the benefit of wildlife preservation and student education. These sites will serve as avenues for students and members of the community to learn about the region’s unique Tamaulipan Brushland ecosystem—found only in the four southernmost counties of Texas—and about conservation in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.



Crater Lake in Oregon.

NPS Photo.

The NPS mission includes the preservation of America's cultural and historical resources. Including the cultural practices and history from across America in carrying out this mission is an important responsibility. The 2023 budget includes several important investments that reflect inclusion and diversity:

- Support for the African American Civil Rights Network to present a comprehensive narrative of the people, places, and events associated with the African American Civil Rights movement—\$5.4 million.
- Historic Preservation Fund support for Historically Black Colleges and Universities—\$10.0 million.
- Grants to Indian Tribes to support Tribal historic preservation offices that preserve the distinct cultural heritage of American Indian Tribes nationwide—\$23.0 million.
- Competitive historic preservation grants to support State and local efforts to preserve sites that document the struggle for equal opportunity for African Americans—\$21.8 million.
- Transfer of \$3.3 million to the 400 Years of African American History Commission for research and programs throughout the United States to recognize and highlight the resilience and cultural contributions of Africans and African Americans over 400 years.
- Expanded capacity at more than 30 national park units that preserve and tell the story of historically underrepresented and marginalized groups or conduct programs that reach out to local underserved communities.
- Assessment and addressing of transportation barriers to National Park System units from underserved communities—\$5.0 million.
- Establishment of the Park Accessibility for Visitors and Employees Network—\$5.0 million.

The 2023 budget also allocates \$125.0 million of mandatory LWCF funding for the NPS competitive Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program (ORLP) grants. ORLP grants support locally led conservation and recreation improvements in economically disadvantaged urban areas. These grants enable cities to provide equitable access to local parks and other outdoor recreational areas where none, or little, currently exists. Priority is given to projects that engage youth in underserved communities, provide opportunities for employment or job training, involve public-private partnerships, and rely on coordination across all levels of government. An example of the type of projects supported include a Downtown Waterfront Metropark in Toledo, OH, which created access to the 73-acre Toledo Manhattan Marsh Preserve, a large urban natural area on the Maumee River. This project developed boardwalks and aggregated walking paths as well as a canoe and kayak launch and related facilities.

Building a More Diverse Workforce

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) Arizona State Office takes pride in having a diverse workforce that reflects the communities it serves. Unique to BLM Arizona is the Diversity Inclusion and Awareness Recruitment Team (DIART), which consists of members statewide. The DIART goal is to address the immediate and long-term diversity and inclusion needs of BLM Arizona. Staff commitment to ensuring a diverse workforce also extends to their partners, who are integral in BLM's ability to execute the multiple-use mission. Through robust partnerships with organizations such as the Phoenix and Maricopa County Workforce Investment Boards, Arizona Call-a-Teen Youth Resources, American Indian Science and Engineering Society, and Chicago Botanic Garden, BLM Arizona can maximize its recruitment ability through meaningful internship opportunities.

Building Agency Capacity

Interior is working in a number of areas to strengthen the Department moving forward and continuously improve the delivery of our mission programs and services to the American people. Efforts related to improving Interior's workforce and operations and better leveraging technology and information are underway across the Department.

Workforce and Operational Improvements

Interior's mission activities rely on a talented and dedicated workforce, and many bureau operations are labor intensive and complex. At the end of 2020, however, Interior's staffing was at a 10-year low, with 60,558 full-time equivalents (FTEs). Despite the pandemic, by the end of 2021, staffing had increased to 62,027 FTEs. When fully enacted, the Department's 2023 budget would support 68,133 FTEs.

As the Department rebuilds its workforce, Interior is working to recruit, hire, and train the next generation of talented people who will reflect the diversity and strength of the United States. Complementing our diverse workforce, the Department is committed to providing the tools critical for success across Interior. DOI will regularly conduct equity assessments and pursue more meaningful engagement with underserved communities to make sure they are visible and considered during outreach and hiring efforts. The budget includes \$2.3 million for Human Capital initiatives, which include the use of Talent Teams to strengthen recruitment and improve outreach to diverse candidates.

With regard to the WFM workforce, Interior is working closely with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, and the Office of Personnel Management to ensure that Federal wildland firefighters receive pay that is competitive with the pay received by other firefighters. The 2023 budget continues to support a transition to a more permanent wildland fire workforce, with improved training and career development opportunities to encourage the retention of experienced and skilled staff members.

To better support Interior's uniformed law enforcement efforts, the 2023 budget includes \$21.1 million to ensure that Interior law enforcement personnel have body-worn cameras and the associated data storage capability they need. The 2023 budget proposal would provide coverage for all Interior law enforcement officers.

The Department continues its work to strengthen BLM's workforce, which experienced a significant loss of expertise during the 2019 reorganization

of the bureau, when the BLM headquarters was moved from the Washington, DC, area to Grand Junction, CO. At that time, more than 80 percent of the employees in positions identified for relocation chose not to relocate, and many employees moved to positions outside BLM and Interior. BLM is working now with employees to rebuild a headquarters in Washington, DC, and to fully leverage the strengths of the western headquarters in Grand Junction, CO, and in BLM field offices across the West.

Leveraging Technology and Information

As part of a governmentwide initiative, the Department is working to incorporate a stronger analysis process through evidence-based program evaluations that rely on data. To improve data-management practices, the budget invests \$2.3 million to increase transparency by establishing a robust data-management program, organizing data through an enterprise data registry. The budget also includes \$4.3 million for an independent evaluation fund to support efforts to conduct independent evaluations of programs, initiatives, and processes across Interior. DOI will also develop and implement a Departmentwide Enterprise Risk Management program to better identify and address systemic risks across the agency. The 2023 budget includes an additional \$700,000 to support evidence-based evaluations and risk-management work across the Department.

To better support this data-driven work, the 2023 budget includes \$54.3 million to continue to modernize and enhance the Department's enterprise business management system, the Financial and Business Management System (FBMS). FBMS supports the administrative system's requirements across the Department for core accounting, budget execution, acquisition, aspects of financial assistance, real and personal property management, fleet management, travel integration, enterprise information management, and reporting.

In 2023, the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) will invest \$17.5 million for the next phase of its ongoing Information Technology (IT) Modernization effort, which will focus on the design, development, and implementation of the



Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve in Colorado.

NPS Photo by Patrick Myers.

new system and the eventual decommissioning of the legacy financial system. ONRR ensures that revenue from Federal and Indian mineral leases is effectively, efficiently, and accurately collected, accounted for, analyzed, audited, and disbursed to recipients in a timely fashion. Revenue distributions, which totaled \$8.8 billion in 2021, benefit States, Tribes, individual Indian mineral royalty owners, and U.S. Treasury accounts. IT Modernization will provide the capacity, flexibility, and agility to reduce long-term operations and maintenance costs, and it will strengthen the cybersecurity of Federal networks and critical infrastructure.

In the area of law enforcement, the 2023 budget includes \$11.0 million to implement a unified Law Enforcement Records Management System (LERMS). With LERMS, Interior will be able to centralize law enforcement activities—including criminal investigations, jail management, and citation tracking—and securely transmit law enforcement records across the Department and other law enforcement agencies and courts. At present, data sharing between the two legacy law enforcement

systems is limited, and systems are inaccessible in rural areas, such as at national parks that do not have cell service or the internet and require officers to reenter handwritten paper ticket and report information at a computing device when a connection becomes available. The current systems do not have the capability to electronically transfer ticket information to the U.S. Courts or report mandatory data to the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). By transitioning to a unified LERMS, the realized efficiencies and increased capabilities will allow DOI law enforcement officers to spend more time protecting people and resources and will promote accountability.

Interior bureaus and offices use field communications to carry out critical operations, including law enforcement, wildland firefighting, land and resource management, scientific studies, and emergency management. The 2023 request includes \$28.6 million to be distributed across BIA, NPS, FWS, USGS, and the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) to modernize field

communications. This DOI Field Communications Modernization investment is part of a strategy to address needed upgrades in Interior's field communications systems to ensure more efficient and reliable voice communication and remote broadband connectivity to provide employees working in the field with voice, video, and data capabilities for all missions. In many locations, this deployment will enhance or replace voice-only, mid-20th-century land mobile radio technology with technology that is cheaper to operate and maintain. Operations and maintenance costs may be significantly reduced and communications capabilities will likely increase by assessing current capabilities and needs, leveraging current technological solutions, and seeking to deliver more cost-effective cellular and satellite services.

Interior is also investing in cybersecurity to ensure that the security and integrity of our systems are not compromised. In January 2022, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, FBI, and National Security Agency encouraged all agencies to increase cyber resilience in light of elevated risk. Interior continues to pivot to keep pace with a dynamic cybersecurity environment and deploy needed mitigation tools and upgraded capabilities. The 2023 budget includes \$44.3 million to address high-priority cyber defense requirements, better detect emerging threats, make needed improvements to Interior's IT networks, initiate supply chain risk management analysis, and maintain ongoing operations.



Hiking Bisti De-Na-Zin Wilderness in New Mexico.

BLM Photo by Bob Wick.

BUDGET AUTHORITY AND RECEIPTS ^{1/}

(dollars in millions)

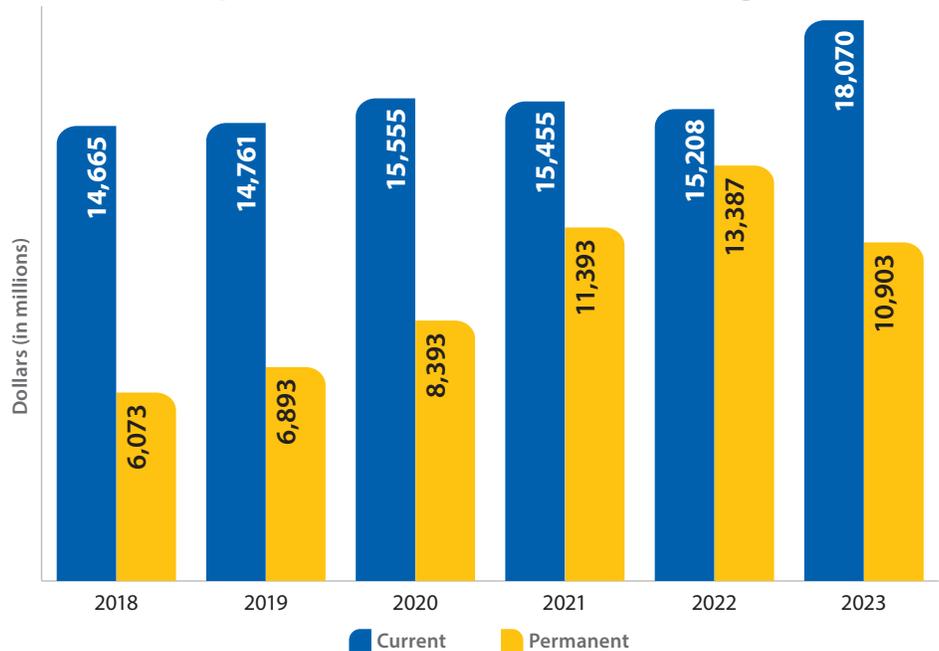
| | 2021 Actual | 2022 CR | 2023 Request | Change |
|---|----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| BUDGET AUTHORITY | | | | |
| Total Current Appropriations (w/o supplementals and cap adjustment) | 15,455 | 15,208 | 18,070 | +2,862 |
| Permanent Appropriations (w/o mandatory proposal) | 11,393 | 13,387 | 10,903 | -2,484 |
| TOTAL | 26,848 | 28,595 | 28,974 | +379 |
| [Net discretionary BA] | [15,310] | [15,089] | [17,462] | [+2,373] |
| RECEIPTS | | | | |
| Outer Continental Shelf | 4,239 | 10,720 | 6,369 | -4,351 |
| Onshore Mineral Leasing | 3,900 | 5,557 | 5,164 | -393 |
| Other Offsetting Receipts | 1,652 | 1,800 | 1,927 | +128 |
| Other Receipts | 2,318 | 2,109 | 2,025 | -83 |
| TOTAL | 12,109 | 20,185 | 15,485 | -4,700 |

^{1/} Amounts in 2022 and 2023 reflect corrections from the 2023 President's Budget Appendix.

THE NUMBERS

The Department's 2023 budget request totals \$18.1 billion in current authority. Of this, \$16.6 billion is requested for programs funded by the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. The 2023 request for the Bureau of Reclamation and Central Utah Project Completion Act, funded in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, is \$1.4 billion in current appropriations. In 2023, Interior will generate receipts of \$15.5 billion.

Department of the Interior Funding



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FACTS

Land—Interior manages more than 480 million acres, or about 20 percent of the land area of the United States; 700 million acres of subsurface minerals; and more than 760 million acres of submerged land in seven national monuments. The Department has jurisdiction over more than 2.5 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf.

Parks, Refuges, and Public Lands—Interior manages 423 units of the national park system, 567 national wildlife refuges, 71 fish hatcheries, and one historic fish hatchery, as well as 23 national conservation areas and similarly designated areas and 28 national monuments in BLM's national conservation lands.

People—Interior has nearly 70,000 employees in approximately 2,400 locations across the United States, Puerto Rico, U.S. territories, and Freely Associated States.

Volunteers—Interior benefits from more than 130,000 volunteers who provide nearly 4.5 million hours of service, valued at an estimated \$128 million per year.

Conservation—More than 625,000 acres of high-priority abandoned coal mine sites have been reclaimed through the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's Abandoned Mine Lands program. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service acts to protect more than 2,365 endangered and threatened species, 1,669 of which are in the United States.

Revenues—Interior collects revenues from energy, minerals, grazing, timber, land sales, and other revenue-producing activities. Interior's estimated revenue projections in 2022 are \$20.2 billion.

Water—The Department is the largest supplier and manager of water in the 17 western States. The Bureau of Reclamation manages 487 dams and 338 reservoirs that deliver water to more than 31 million people and one of every five western farmers, irrigating 10 million acres of farmland.

Energy—Interior manages lands, subsurface rights, and offshore areas that produce approximately 17 percent of the Nation's energy, including 14 percent of natural gas, 26 percent of oil, and 45 percent of coal. Federal lands also host projects that account for a significant portion of the Nation's renewable energy-generating capacity, including 14 percent of hydropower, 1 percent of wind power, 64 percent of geothermal energy, and 7 percent of solar energy.

Visitation—Annually, nearly 80 million visits are made to Bureau of Land Management public lands, more than 297 million visits to national park units, more than 65 million visits to national wildlife refuges and fish hatcheries, and more than 90 million visits to Reclamation recreation sites.

American Indians—The Department provides services to American Indians and Alaska Natives from the 574 federally recognized Tribes in the 48 contiguous States and Alaska. The

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FACTS

(continued)

Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) provides education services to 45,000 students in 23 States attending 183 elementary and secondary schools and dormitories and supports 33 BIE-funded community colleges, universities, and postsecondary schools. There are 96 Bureau of Indian Affairs-funded corrections programs and 191 bureau and Tribal law enforcement programs.

American Indian Trust—Interior has responsibility for the largest land trust in the world. Today, the Indian trust encompasses approximately 56 million surface acres and 59 million acres of subsurface mineral estates. On those lands, Interior manages more than 133,000 leases for uses such as farming, grazing, and oil and gas production on behalf of individual Indians and Tribes. The Bureau of Trust Funds Administration manages approximately \$6.16 billion of Indian trust funds held in about 3,900 Tribal accounts and about 404,000 Individual Indian Monies accounts.

Science—Interior provides unbiased, multidisciplinary science for use in understanding, mapping, and managing natural resources and hazards. Data are available to the public from more than 11,000 streamgages and more than 3,300 earthquake sensors. Interior is also responsible for operating three Earth observation satellites—the Landsat 7, 8, and 9 missions. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has provided Landsat data products from its archives at no cost since 2008. In 2021, USGS distributed more than 685 million remotely sensed data products, of which more than 669 million were Landsat data products.



A University of Buffalo alumni volunteer with a Park Ranger after a volunteer event.