

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2018

Omnibus Agreement Summary

Highlights of the FY2018 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill:

The \$35.25 billion measure promotes responsible resource development on public lands while funding important environmental programs. It provides funding for the Interior Department, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Forest Service (*U.S. Department of Agriculture*), Indian Health Service (*Department of Health and Human Services*), and numerous agencies and programs that manage public lands, including national parks and forests.

Department of the Interior – \$13.1 billion overall for the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) – \$1.33 billion for BLM, an increase of \$79 million above the enacted level. Within this funding, increases are provided for improved rangeland and multiple-use management and responsible natural resource development activities.

National Park Service (NPS) – \$3.19 billion for the NPS, an increase of \$255 million above the enacted level. This includes a \$175 million increase for construction backlog, maintenance, and funding for new park units. The agreement provides \$23 million for the Centennial matching grant program for addressing deferred maintenance, and \$13 million for competitive grants to preserve the sites and stories of the Civil Rights Movement.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) – \$1.59 billion for FWS, an increase of \$75 million above the enacted level. Important program increases include funding for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants, Endangered Species Act recovery efforts, and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). The bill also provides funding to maintain continued operation of fish hatcheries and includes an increase to address deferred maintenance at those hatcheries and on the nation's wildlife refuges. The bill continues the prohibition on listing the sage-grouse as an endangered species.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) – \$1.148 billion for the USGS, an increase of \$63 million above the enacted level. Within this amount, important program increases have been included for natural hazards, energy and minerals, and water resources (including the groundwater network and streamgages). The bill fully funds Landsat 9. Important increases have also been included for facilities and deferred maintenance.

U.S. Forest Service (USFS) – \$5.93 billion to the USFS. Important increases are included for hazardous fuels reduction, infrastructure to facilitate recreation and economic activity, and to improve the health of our national forests.

Wildland Fire – \$3.828 billion to for wildland fire management. This represents fire suppression funded at 100 percent of the 10-year average need to fight wildfire. The agreement

also includes a fire cap adjustment that ends the destructive practice of “fire borrowing” and makes fire suppression expenditures above 100 percent of the 10-year average from Fiscal Year 2015 eligible for disaster assistance, along with forest management reforms designed to reduce this risk of wildfire and improve management of national forests. Additionally, \$614 million for hazardous fuels reduction activities to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires.

Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) – PILT is fully funded at an estimated \$530 million, which would be \$65 million over the FY2017 level. PILT provides funds for local governments to help offset losses in property taxes due to nontaxable federal lands within their counties. Without congressional action, many rural communities could face huge budget shortfalls impacting public safety, education, and other local government responsibilities.

Indian Health Service (IHS) – \$5.5 billion for the IHS, an increase of \$498 million above the enacted level. The bill includes full funding for Contract Support Costs owed to tribes. The bill also contains large increases over the enacted level for facilities and maintenance needs including: \$91 million for maintenance and improvement; \$90 million for sanitation facilities construction; and, \$125 million for health care facilities construction, of which \$15 million is provided for the small ambulatory program. The agreement also provides an increase of \$94 million to maintain current service levels (for medical inflations and mandatory pay cost increases). Finally, the bill also provides \$60.3 million for staffing packages for new facilities.

Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education (BIA/BIE) – \$3.06 billion for the BIA and BIE, an increase of \$203 million above the enacted level. Within this amount, contract support costs are fully funded. Education and public safety and justice programs receive additional support. The bill increases construction by \$162 million and restarts an important public safety construction program for detention centers.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) – \$425 million for the LWCF, including:

- \$124 million for the National Park Service State Assistance Program;
- \$17 million in Recreational Access funding across all four agencies (BLM, NPS, FWS and USFS);
- \$67 million for the Forest Legacy Program; and
- \$10 million for the American Battlefield Protection Program.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – The bill holds EPA operating programs at the FY2017 enacted level, maintaining the lowest level of funding since FY2009. While EPA operating programs are held level, the bill provides additional funding for states to do high priority permitting and cleanup work and significant increases for on-the-ground cleanup and infrastructure. These increases include:

- \$2.9 billion for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan funds, an increase of \$600 million, which help states and localities improve water infrastructure;
- \$50 million in new funding for programs authorized in the WIIN Act to provide access to basic wastewater and drinking water services and to clean up lead in schools;
- \$1.15 billion, a \$66 million increase, for Superfund to help clean up the nation’s most polluted sites.

- \$63 million for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loan program, which will leverage federal dollars to provide over \$6 billion in financing for water infrastructure projects.

The bill continues to prohibit the EPA from regulating certain types of ammunition and fishing tackle and continues a provision that treats biomass as carbon neutral. The bill includes the FARM Act, which provides relief to agricultural producers from certain reporting requirements.

Smithsonian Institution – \$1 billion for the Smithsonian Institution, a \$180 million increase over the enacted level. The bill includes \$198 million for the National Air & Space Museum renovation.

National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities – \$152 million, a \$3 million increase over the enacted level, for each Endowment.

Kennedy Center – \$40.5 million for the Kennedy Center, an increase of \$4.1 million over the enacted level.

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) – \$3 million for the CEQ, equal to the enacted level.

Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial – \$45 million for construction of a memorial in honor of Dwight D. Eisenhower. This will provide sufficient funds to complete the project

Palau Compact of Free Association – Fully funds our commitment to Palau under the Palau Compact Review Agreement and reinforces our partnership with Palau an important ally and a key part of the Nation’s Asia-Pacific national security strategy.

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