

# Departmental Highlights



# Departmental Overview

“From tackling the climate crisis to developing innovative conservation strategies to unleashing incredible science to telling our country’s full story and honoring our commitments to Tribal communities, we’re ensuring that the planet we leave behind provides everyone with the support and resources they need to thrive. These values are foundational to everything we do.”

—Secretary Deb Haaland



As the steward of 20 percent of America’s lands, the Department of the Interior (DOI; Interior) serves critical roles for the Nation. Interior is the manager of our country’s national parks, national wildlife refuges, and other public lands. The Department 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 scientists and technical experts provide actionable science and evidence people depend on to prepare for and respond to hazards and make everyday decisions affecting communities and local economies. The Department serves as the lead in fulfilling the Nation’s Trust and other obligations to American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and the Insular Areas. Interior’s programs are important to the Nation’s economy: generating jobs, supporting local economic growth, building resilience to our changing climate, and managing the natural resources on which we all depend.

The President’s 2025 Budget request for Interior builds on the momentum the Administration has achieved through historic investments to advance commitments to Tribal Nations, climate resilience, clean energy, conservation, environmental justice, and American jobs. The 2025 budget continues to

reflect the importance of science, diversity and inclusion, and collaboration between Federal, State, Tribal, and local partners in carrying out all of Interior’s important missions.

## The 2025 Budget

The Department’s 2025 budget totals \$18.0 billion in current authority (\$17.8 billion in net discretionary authority)—an increase of \$575.9 million, or 3 percent, from the 2024 continuing resolution (CR) level. An additional \$360.0 million is accessible through a budget cap adjustment for wildfire suppression to ensure funds are available in the event the regular annual appropriation is inadequate to meet suppression needs. The budget also includes an estimated \$14.8 billion in permanent funding available in 2025.

Within the requested increase for 2025, \$206.0 million is needed to cover fixed-cost increases, such as rent and Federal salary adjustments, to maintain Interior’s core operations carried out by more than 68,000 people living and working in every corner of the country. The 2025 request also includes \$412.2 million needed to keep pace with

2024 fixed costs that are not included in the 2024 CR base. The 2024 CR funding level is essentially the same as the 2023 enacted appropriation with adjustments reflecting Office of Management and Budget (OMB) rather than congressional scoring.

The 2025 President's Budget also allocates important permanent funding available in 2025 through the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA). This amount includes \$1.6 billion for deferred maintenance projects through the Legacy Restoration Fund (LRF) in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Park Service (NPS), and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) and \$681.9 million in permanent funding for Interior's Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) programs. Interior's 2025 allocation for LWCF includes \$313.0 million for voluntary Federal land acquisition projects and programs, \$8.0 million for a new LWCF Tribal Land Acquisition program, and \$360.8 million for grant programs. An additional \$117.9 million is estimated to be available for State LWCF grants in 2025 from offshore oil and gas revenue in the Gulf of Mexico.



Acadia National Park, ME.

DOI Photo.

In 2025, Interior will continue to execute landmark investments in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to promote new jobs and advance local economies. These funds are providing a significant boost needed to address longstanding health and safety risks from abandoned coal mines and orphaned oil and gas wells; advance clean energy development and carbon reduction efforts; accelerate the completion of Indian water rights settlements; and strengthen the resilience of critical ecosystems, Tribal Nations, and communities in the face of unprecedented risks from extreme weather events, devastating drought, and threats of wildfires.

## Legislative Proposals

The 2025 budget request includes the following legislative proposals and technical budgetary adjustments.

**Wildland Firefighting Workforce**—The 2025 President's Budget provides significant funding increases to advance the wildland firefighter workforce reform initiatives first proposed in the 2024 budget. The cornerstone of these long-term reforms is a permanent increase in pay, as provided for in the pay reform legislation transmitted to Congress in March 2023. This legislation will establish a special base rate salary table for wildland firefighters, create a new premium pay category that provides additional compensation for all hours a wildland fire responder is mobilized on an incident, and establish a streamlined pay cap that includes waiver authority to the Secretary based on specific criteria. The budget includes funding for these Federal pay reforms and similar pay increases for Tribal personnel. These proposals build upon the historic reforms in the BIL to ensure wildland fire personnel receive the enhanced support they need to meet evolving mission demands from the increasing frequency and intensity of catastrophic wildfires, which are expected to continue due to climate change.

**Indian Water Rights Settlements**—The budget proposes \$2.8 billion in permanent funding over 10 years to expand the Indian Water Rights Settlement Completion Fund to cover the costs of



Early warning systems site at Menagers Dam, Tohono O'odham Nation.

BIA Photo.

enacted and future water rights settlements and provide for ongoing operations and maintenance costs associated with enacted water settlements managed by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). Providing a stable, dedicated funding source for Indian water rights settlements helps to ensure these commitments are honored and Tribal communities have safe, reliable water supplies to support public and environmental health and economic opportunities.

**Transfer Authority for Implementation of BIL Projects**—The 2025 budget continues the proposal to expand authority for Federal agencies to transfer funds provided under the BIL to FWS to accelerate and improve Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultations in support of responsible development of priority infrastructure projects and energy solutions.

**Good Neighbor and Stewardship Contracting Authority**—The 2025 budget proposes legislation to expand Good Neighbor and Stewardship Contracting authorities currently available to BLM and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to include FWS and NPS. Including these bureaus will allow them to enter into cooperative agreements or contracts with States, Tribes, and counties to perform watershed restoration and forest management

services on Bureau lands. Expanding stewardship contracting authority will enable FWS and NPS to enter into stewardship contracts or agreements to achieve Bureau land and resource management goals. These contracts enable agencies to apply the value of timber or other forest products removed from the lands as an offset against the cost of land and resource management services provided through the agreement. The budget also proposes appropriations language to provide Good Neighbor Authority for BLM and USFS through 2025. The current authority expired at the end of 2023 and was proposed for extension through 2024 in the 2024 President's Budget.

**Tribal Contract Support Costs**—Contract Support Costs funding is a critical Tribal sovereignty payment enabling Tribes to assume responsibility for operating Federal programs by covering the costs to administer the programs. The budget proposes to reclassify Tribal Contract Support Costs from discretionary to mandatory funding beginning in 2026 and requests discretionary funding in 2025 to fully cover estimated requirements.

**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. This critical Tribal sovereignty payment is allowing Indian Affairs to get Tribes closer to meeting the full cost of program implementation and improve their facilities. The 2025 budget proposes to reclassify funding for 105(l) lease agreement requirements from discretionary to mandatory funding beginning in 2026 and requests discretionary funding in 2025 to fully cover estimated requirements.

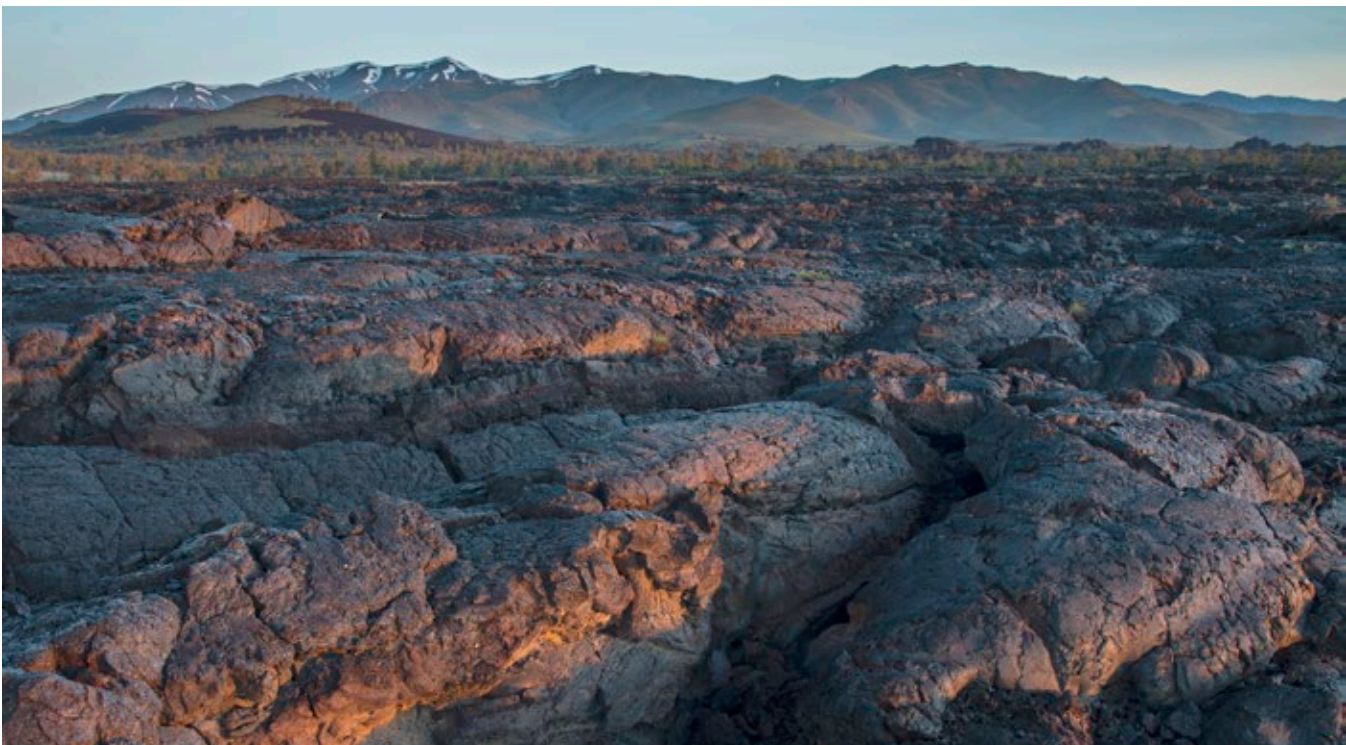
**Compact of Free Association (COFA)**—The Administration supports funding the renewal of our COFA relationships with the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and the Republic of Palau. The 2025 budget seeks \$6.5 billion in economic assistance over 20 years to be provided through a permanent appropriation to the Department of the Interior. In addition, a COFA legislative proposal will include \$634.0 million for continued U.S. Postal Service services to the Freely Associated States (FAS). Funding for postal services will be requested as a direct payment to the Postal Service

Fund. The United States remains committed to its longstanding partnerships with the governments and the people of the FAS as we work together to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific.

**Land and Water Conservation Fund Program for Tribes**—The budget proposes language that will allocate \$8.0 million of permanent LWCF funding to establish an LWCF Tribal Land Acquisition program in the Office of the Secretary (OS) account. The program will be managed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to award funding for Tribal land acquisition proposals that meet the criteria of LWCF to advance conservation and recreation opportunities. This program will, for the first time, provide Tribes direct access to participate in LWCF without relying on partners—an important advancement supporting Tribal Self-Determination.

## Addressing Climate Challenges and Building Resilience

Across America, communities are enduring historic and catastrophic flooding, wildfires, extreme heat, drought, and more, and longer term changes in temperature are affecting ecosystems and the economies that depend on them. The impacts of



Pāhoehoe lava flows at sunrise in Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve, Idaho.

NPS Photo.

climate change are intensifying, disrupting lives and livelihoods, and causing billions of dollars in damages. Together with agencies across the Federal Government, States, Tribes, and other partners, Interior is working to address the immediate and long-term needs driven by the changing climate. Catastrophic fire, flood, and drought events are increasingly top-of-mind considerations for Interior's resource managers. These events demand immediate attention and resources, but long-term success requires work to build climate resilience. The 2025 budget reflects Interior's important role in the all-of-government approach to tackling climate change and building long-term resilience. The budget invests \$5.5 billion in climate adaptation and resilience efforts to address these important challenges.

The 2025 budget continues to leverage science to better understand the impacts of climate change, inform and improve land management practices, and develop and implement strategies to increase climate resilience across the country. Interior's U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has a long history of delivering science, methods, and tools to provide timely, relevant, and useful information about the Earth and its processes, including ecosystems and the environment. USGS works in partnership with a variety of Federal agencies and State, Tribal, and local entities across the country to maintain roughly 20,000 groundwater monitoring wells, more than 11,800 streamgages, and more than 3,900 earthquake sensors and directly monitor approximately 70 volcanoes.

USGS also manages a network of Climate Adaptation Science Centers, which partners scientists with natural and cultural resource managers and local communities to help fish, wildlife, water, land, and people adapt and build resilience to climate change. The budget includes \$69.3 million, an increase of \$6.2 million from the 2024 CR level. This funding will support a network of nine USGS Regional and one National Climate Adaptation Science Centers across the country, which are affiliated with university partners. The centers work with a wide range of natural and cultural resource managers and other partners to address specific climate-related challenges. In

addition, USGS and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) jointly manage the Landsat program. Since 1972, Landsat has provided essential land change data enabling Interior and others to manage lands and other natural resources more effectively and provide information to better understand and document land changes due to climate change, wildfire, drought, urbanization, and other changes affecting the Earth.

### **Landsat Next**

The Department of the Interior continues to work closely with NASA to develop sustainable land imaging for the upcoming Landsat Next mission. In late 2023, Interior announced the Landsat 2030 International Partnership Initiative to enhance the ability of U.S. and partner governments to sustainably manage their land, surface water, and resource use.

Landsat is the only U.S. satellite system designed and operated to collect essential data on the Earth's geologic formations, natural habitats, farmlands, cities, lakes, glaciers, coastlines, and other surface features. Landsat provides imagery at landscape-scale resolution—which can inform efforts to improve environmental sustainability, climate change resiliency, and economic growth—all while expanding an unparalleled record of Earth's changing landscapes.

The U.S. Landsat Next Earth observation satellite mission focuses on building on Landsat's 52-year data record to enable users to record, study, understand, and better manage landscape change at local, regional, and global scales. The Landsat Next mission will provide a new and improved capability for the next generation of users, with higher spatial resolution and better repeat coverage than Landsat 8 and 9 combined.

Today, Landsat is the most widely cited land-focused Earth observation satellite in the peer-reviewed scientific literature. The Landsat series of satellites have provided science-quality observations of the Earth's land surfaces, surface waters, and coastal regions for more than five decades. The 2025 budget includes \$110.5 million for Satellite Operations, which includes a program increase of \$12.0 million from the 2024 CR level for Landsat Next.

### **Wildland Fire Management**

The devastating consequences of severe wildfires continue to affect communities and wildland firefighters across the country. The National



A firefighter evaluates the area he ignited before continuing with prescribed fire operations in South Florida.

NPS Photo.

Interagency Coordination Center reports that more than 56,000 wildfires occurred across the United States in 2023, burning nearly 2.7 million acres. Climate change-driven, long-term trends continue, with increasing wildfire occurrence, burned area, and high-severity incidents expected in 2025 and beyond, with impacts ranging from direct loss of life and property to health, economic, and ecosystem impacts. For 2025, the President's Budget expands the Nation's response to wildfire impacts beyond the near term, investing in longer term actions to restore wildfire resilience, rehabilitate burned areas, and increase the workforce capacity and capability to manage wildland fires.

The 2025 budget request for the Department's Wildland Fire Management (WFM) programs is \$1.6 billion, including \$1.3 billion for WFM annual appropriations and \$360.0 million for the Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund. The request for the WFM account includes \$831.8 million in emergency-designated appropriations (also referred to as "shifted base"). The total request is an increase of \$206.7 million and an estimated 61 Federal full-time equivalents (FTEs) and 7 Tribal FTEs, a funding increase of 14.4 percent above the

2024 CR level. The request includes \$75.0 million to support permanent pay increases for Federal and Tribal wildland firefighters and an increase of \$39.8 million above the 2024 CR level to increase firefighting capacity, which accounts for 56 of these Federal FTEs and the 7 Tribal FTEs.

The 2025 budget continues to press for implementation of permanent, comprehensive pay reform for Federal wildland firefighters at Interior and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Enacting pay reform is essential to meet the challenges posed by longer and more intense wildfire seasons to ensure stable firefighter recruitment and retention. The long-term reforms are supported by funding requested to implement a permanent pay increase to replace the temporary pay increases provided in the BIL and continued in the 2024 CR. Complementing these pay reforms are investments to enhance health services, hire additional permanent and temporary wildland firefighters to increase capacity, and improve government housing. These investments will help address longstanding recruitment and retention challenges, attend to firefighter mental health and well-being, increase the Department's capacity



to complete critical risk mitigation and post-fire recovery work, and further the Administration's commitment to build a more resilient wildland firefighting workforce as the frequency and intensity of catastrophic wildfires continue to increase due to climate change.

The 2025 budget continues to reflect the important role proactive fuels management plays in wildland fire management to reduce the intensity, severity, and negative effects of wildfire and improve the resiliency of public and Tribal lands. The budget includes \$287.6 million for Fuels Management, which maintains program capacity at the 2024 CR level and includes a program increase of \$25.0 million to cover the program's share of the increased cost of the permanent firefighter pay reform. Combined with funding provided in the BIL for fuels management, the Department expects to treat 1.8 million acres in 2025.

The 2025 budget also proposes appropriations language to increase Interior's flexibility to engage in cross-boundary fuels management and burned area rehabilitation work, including on non-Federal lands if the work benefits resources on Federal lands. These changes will address gaps and uncertainties in current authority and support implementation of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. Among other benefits, these changes will support underserved communities that may be unable to share the costs for work that also benefits Federal jurisdictions.

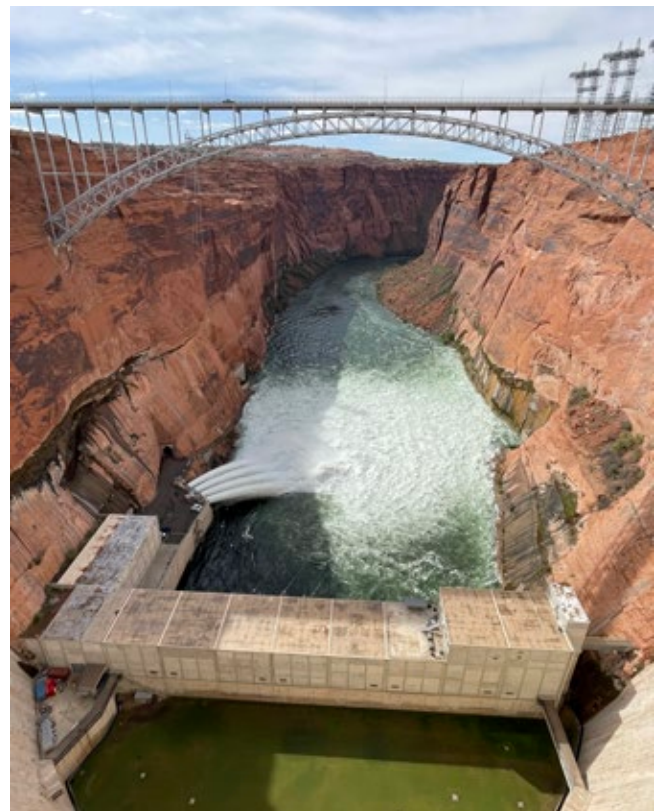
The budget includes \$15.0 million for Facilities Construction and Maintenance, \$5.0 million above the 2024 CR level, which includes \$10.0 million to repair, renovate, and construct housing for wildland fire personnel. These funds will significantly help address the problem of inadequate or unaffordable housing facing many wildland firefighters working in certain geographic locations. The budget will further improve wildland fire management by establishing a Joint Office for Wildfire Science and Technology with the USFS. The budget includes \$2.5 million in Interior's Preparedness program and \$2.5 million in the USFS budget to support joint efforts leading to the development, deployment, and sustainment of technology, science, and

data to be used to improve safety, effectiveness, and cost efficiency across the Wildland Fire Management program.

The 2025 President's Budget—featuring improved compensation, increased workforce capacity, vital health and well-being assistance, and improved housing—will transform interagency Wildland Fire Management by improving recruitment and retention and laying the foundation for further advancements. The Administration looks forward to working with Congress to enact this important legislation to obtain the requested funds needed to implement these reforms in 2025.

### ***Drought and Ongoing Water Challenges***

Severe and sustained drought conditions across the West are forcing difficult challenges and choices to manage available water supplies. Limited water availability and increased wildland fire risk pose significant threats and challenges for communities, agriculture, Tribes, and ecosystems. Interior is bringing every resource to bear to help mitigate the impacts of drought and bolster long-term solutions supporting continued conservation and economic growth, so no community is left behind.



High-flow spring releases from the Glen Canyon Dam in the spring of 2023.

*Reclamation Photo.*



Rainbow over tundra wetlands in late spring at Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. *FWS Photo.*

Reclamation plays an important role in the Nation's all-of-government response to drought. Reclamation takes a comprehensive approach to address the historic drought conditions affecting 17 Western States. Recognizing that no single action or solution will adequately address the problem, Reclamation is working to mitigate drought on multiple fronts. Efforts include collaboration with partners to develop new water supply and infrastructure projects, new forecasting and modeling tools, a range of water management improvements, new science, and long-term planning to develop innovative strategies to address hydrologic changes.

The 2025 President's Budget for Reclamation complements the transformative investments in water infrastructure, drought mitigation, and domestic water supply projects now underway through funding from the BIL and the IRA. The 2025 budget includes \$1.5 billion for Reclamation's water programs and projects, sustaining a strong commitment to drought mitigation in the Bureau's annual appropriations. Funding in the request will

help to ensure communities across the West have access to a resilient and reliable water supply by investing in rural water projects, water conservation, desalination technology development, and water recycling and reuse projects. The budget provides funding to address the ongoing drought affecting water systems across the West, including along the Colorado River System, which is near historically low levels.

The 2025 budget includes \$65.6 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. This funding supports watershed restoration planning and watershed management project design. Funding is also provided for watershed groups to carry out collaborative on-the-ground watershed management solutions through cost-shared financial assistance for water conservation, water management, and restoration projects that provide significant ecological value and watershed health benefits.

The budget includes \$21.8 million for technical support, studies, and habitat restoration activities related to anadromous fish in the Columbia and Snake River basins to mitigate the impacts of Reclamation water projects. The budget also provides funding for a study to evaluate the potential success of reintroducing anadromous fish upstream of the Grand Coulee Dam.

In the past 3 years, Interior has allocated \$2.43 billion available through the BIL to address Indian water rights settlements enacted by Congress as of November 15, 2021. Indian reserved water rights are vested property rights for which the United States has a trust responsibility. Settlement of Indian water rights disputes helps create conditions that improve water resource management and provides certainty as to the rights of all water users who are parties to the disputes. Honoring those commitments promptly is especially important to the health, safety, and empowerment of Tribal communities.

In addition to these previous investments, the budget provides \$181.0 million within Reclamation to support the White Mountain Apache Tribe's

water settlement agreement within the settlement's statutory completion deadline. The budget also includes \$45.0 million in BIA to support payments authorized in the Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2022.

The Administration proposes legislation to expand the Indian Water Rights Settlement Completion Fund in 2025. This proposal will provide \$2.8 billion in permanent funding over 10 years to help ensure commitments are honored on existing, newly enacted, and anticipated Indian Water Rights Settlements. Included in this total is \$340.0 million in permanent funding for operations and maintenance costs associated with currently enacted Reclamation-funded settlement projects.

USGS works with partners to deliver water predictions and drought risk-assessment tools that support the mitigation of and response to

prolonged drought. USGS has supported extensive partner engagement throughout the Colorado River Basin with science to identify and begin to understand the cascading effects of drought on ecosystems and socioeconomic factors; improve partners' access to science, data, and tools; and improve the understanding of gains and losses of water as it moves from one Colorado River reservoir to another. Predictions and assessments—along with other fundamental information on how drought drives physical, biological, and chemical landscape change—are used to evaluate watershed conditions on multiple-use public lands, the status of fish and wildlife species, drought impacts on rangeland management, and plans and investments for infrastructure, conservation, and restoration projects. In 2025, USGS will invest an additional \$7.0 million to support these efforts to address the critical issues facing our Nation due to drought.

## Colorado River

In 2023, the Department took important measures to address the historically low water levels in the Colorado River Basin—a resource upon which 7 States, 30 Tribes, and 40 million people rely. Working closely with States, Tribes, irrigators, and other stakeholders, the Department staved off the immediate possibility of the Colorado River System's reservoirs falling to critically low levels that would threaten water deliveries and power production.

Reclamation conducted updated modeling analyses using June 2023 hydrology data, and the results of that modeling indicate measures agreed to as part of this effort substantially reduce the risk of reaching critical levels at Lake Powell and Lake Mead. However, the levels in these reservoirs remain historically low, and conservation measures will still be necessary to ensure continued water delivery to communities and to protect the long-term sustainability of the Colorado River System.

Investments available through the BIL and the IRA are integral to the efforts to increase near-term water conservation, build long-term system efficiency, and prevent the Colorado River System's reservoirs from falling to critically low levels. The BIL provides nearly \$1.7 billion in 2025 for water infrastructure in the West, in addition to nearly \$4.0 billion provided previously under the IRA for drought mitigation and water supply projects. This funding will continue to benefit the system in 2025 through nearly two dozen System Conservation Implementation Agreements in Arizona and California that will fund projects for water conservation, water efficiency, and protection of

critical environmental resources in the Colorado River System. Reclamation is working with its partners to finalize additional short- and long-term conservation agreements.

To date, the Department of the Interior has announced the following investments for Colorado River Basin States, which will yield hundreds of thousands of acre-feet of water savings each year once these projects are complete:

- \$281.0 million for 21 water recycling projects expected to increase water capacity by 127,000 acre-feet annually;
- up to \$233.0 million in water conservation funding for the Gila River Indian Community, including \$83 million for a water pipeline project;
- more than \$73.0 million for infrastructure repairs on water delivery systems, including \$19.3 million in 2022 and another \$54.0 million announced in April 2023;
- \$71.0 million for 32 drought resiliency projects to expand access to water through groundwater storage, rainwater harvesting, aquifer recharge, and water treatment;
- \$50.0 million over the next 5 years to improve key water infrastructure and enhance drought-related data collection across the Upper Colorado River Basin; and
- \$20.0 million in new small surface and groundwater storage projects.



Columbia River gage in Stevenson, WA.

USGS Photo.

### **Building Resilient Communities**

The impacts of climate change on communities across the Nation are focusing more attention on the need to strengthen resilience to these changes through short-term disaster preparedness and long-term planning and infrastructure investments. Interior programs advance these efforts in many ways through proactive investments leveraging science and critical monitoring networks.

USGS manages the Groundwater and Streamflow Information Program, which maintains a nationwide network of streamflow and water level information collected from more than 31,000 sites. The budget includes \$121.4 million for this program, \$6.8 million above the 2024 CR level. Network information is available online to help States, Tribes, natural resource managers, scientists, and emergency managers across the country to monitor for floods and drought and forecast water availability for crops and natural resource management.

The USGS Ecosystem Change Research Program analyzes and synthesizes the effects of environment, land use, and climate changes on ecosystems to inform natural resource management policy and decisions—including those concerning wildfires and

drought—and collaborates with Tribal partners to assess climate impacts on Tribal lands and waters.

As part of the USGS Coastal and Marine Hazards programs, researchers use on-the-ground field work, high-resolution data, and modeling to help communities understand and respond to changes in coastal landscapes. Federal, Tribal, State, and local entities around the country use USGS data to inform coastal management and strategic planning. Some organizations use this science to plan evacuation notices, inform city planning, and construct storm-resistant infrastructure. Others use USGS habitat assessments and decision-support tools to restore coastal ecosystems and develop infrastructure that can help buffer future storm damage and coastal erosion. The budget includes \$49.2 million for the Coastal and Marine Hazards program, \$6.0 million above the 2024 CR level.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) also plays an important role in the resilience of coastal areas through its Marine Minerals Program (MMP). BOEM partners with communities to address serious erosion along the Nation's coastal beaches, dunes, barrier islands, and wetlands. Erosion affects natural resources, energy, defense, public infrastructure, and tourism. To help address

this problem, the MMP leases sand, gravel, and shell resources from Federal waters on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) for shore protection, beach nourishment, and wetlands restoration with vigorous safety and environmental oversight.

The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) provides the authority to manage minerals on the OCS and the requirement to provide environmental oversight. As the steward of OCS marine minerals, BOEM needs to understand where sand resources are located and how much may be available for coastal protection and restoration projects. These sand resources are most critical along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, with an evolving interest in the Pacific and Alaska regions. To meet those challenges, BOEM has launched the Marine Minerals Information System (MMIS) as part of the National Offshore Sand Inventory to help to reduce response time in disaster recovery and facilitate long-term planning to strengthen the resilience of coastal communities and infrastructure. Ensuring that all parties have access to detailed offshore information is critical to responsible decision making. The 2025 budget includes \$14.8 million for the Marine Minerals Program.

The 2025 budget includes \$48.8 million, \$13.8 million above the 2024 CR level, in BIA 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. This annually funded program complements the Voluntary Community-Driven Relocation program, led by Interior, and made possible with investments from the BIL and the IRA, with additional support for relocation from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Denali Commission. This initiative is helping Tribal communities severely affected by climate-related environmental threats take the next step in the process of relocating crucial community infrastructure away from imminent threats.

The Office of Insular Affairs budget includes \$118.3 million for Assistance to Territories to support basic services in the Insular Areas and

targeted investments related to climate change. These investments include \$15.5 million to promote renewable energy and strengthen grid infrastructure in the Insular Areas and \$2.8 million for work related to coral reef ecosystems and other natural resource needs. The Coral Reef Initiative and Natural Resources program supports efforts to protect the health of all natural resources in the Insular Areas for the long-term economic and social benefit for these island populations. In 2025, this program will support overall natural resource protection in the Insular Areas, such as coral reef conservation, training and law enforcement, watershed restoration, marine area protection and preservation, and the deterrence and prevention of the spread of invasive species. Funding in 2025 for Assistance to Territories includes total increases of \$4.0 million for important investments needed to maintain ongoing support for conservation and climate resilience in the Insular Areas. These increases are offset by a reduction of \$6.0 million reflecting the discontinuation of discretionary funding support for the discretionary Compact Impact program. Compact Impact is addressed in the Administration's legislative proposal for COFA.

### **Healthy Public Lands and Waters**

Interior manages more than 480 million acres of lands across the United States and is responsible for the protection and recovery of 2,367 endangered and threatened species. Through this significant stewardship mission, Interior leads as an active partner in ongoing efforts to understand and mitigate climate impacts on natural resources, promote biodiversity, and ensure these valuable assets remain available for the public to experience and enjoy. Natural resource conservation, restoration, recovery, and adaptive management are a fundamental part of Interior's mission across the agency. Interior's conservation and adaptive management work relies heavily on partnerships and interagency collaboration to leverage information and resources. The 2025 budget includes roughly \$2.8 billion in annual funding for conservation efforts, including critical work for restoration and improvements supporting healthier lands, waters, ecosystems, and their resident species.

## Single-Use Plastics

On World Ocean Day 2022, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland issued [Secretary's Order 3407](#), directing the reduction of the procurement, sale, and distribution of single-use plastic products and packaging with a goal of phasing out single-use plastic products on Department-managed lands by 2032.

Plastic waste is a priority environmental problem. Less than 10 percent of the plastic ever produced has been recycled, and recycling rates are not increasing. Plastics, including unnecessary and easily substituted single-use plastic products, are devastating fish and wildlife around the world. Our oceans are downstream of all pollution sources and bear the brunt of the impacts. Marine species ingest or are entangled by plastic debris that causes severe injuries and death.

The Secretary's Order is accelerating action across all Interior bureaus and offices to provide additional water bottle filling stations for staff and visitors. These stations provide a critical alternative to purchasing or bringing along single-use plastic water bottles. Examples of these efforts include the following:

- Working with partners, NPS is installing water bottle filling stations at seven National Park sites, including the National Mall. At the National Mall, the project modified 34 water fountains in phase one of these installations, with 2 additional phases planned.
- BLM has installed or ordered water bottle filling stations for all employees at each State, district, and field office.
- BIE has begun modifying school water fountains to include water bottle filling stations and is providing free reusable drinking containers for students.

The Department is also working with food service providers, souvenir vendors, and other concessionaires and contractors to reduce sales of single-use plastics on Department-managed lands. From campaigns to be "plastic straw free" to eliminating plastic bags in retail stores and single-use toiletry containers in hotel rooms, the Department is working closely with private partners to reduce single-use plastic products through contracting and procurement policies and processes. Although bureaus and offices are at various stages of implementation, exciting examples are emerging, such as at Yosemite National Park, which eliminated sales of all single-use plastic beverage containers in 2022. The park is also taking steps to reduce the use of plastic wrap and plastic packaging and promote reusable water bottles.

The 2025 budget includes targeted investments aimed at protecting biodiversity; restoring fish, wildlife, and their habitats; and halting nature loss. The request includes \$2.0 billion for natural resource programs in NPS, BLM, and FWS. This funding supports Interior's core mission activities and at the same time supports the objectives of the America the Beautiful initiative to advance conservation efforts that are locally led, are collaborative and inclusive, honor Tribal sovereignty, and follow science.

The FWS budget invests \$602.3 million in the National Wildlife Refuge System to maintain and operate 570 national refuge areas across the country. Each unit of the refuge system is established to target conservation of native species dependent on its lands and water, and all activities on those lands are reviewed for compatibility with this purpose. The budget includes \$280.4 million for Wildlife and Habitat Management activities in the national refuge areas, an increase of \$19.9 million above the 2024 CR amount.

The budget also includes \$942.5 million, an increase of \$37.9 million from the 2024 CR level, for species and habitat conservation; restoration and recovery of species; migratory bird programs; fish and aquatic conservation; and international conservation programs. Many of these programs support collaborative partnerships leveraging the support of a wide range of partners, including sportspeople, local communities, private landowners, and Tribes. The budget includes \$68.1 million for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, \$7.8 million above the 2024 CR level, to further support voluntary conservation on private lands—a key focus of the America the Beautiful initiative. The FWS budget also includes \$17.6 million for the Migratory Bird Joint Ventures program, \$0.8 million above the 2024 CR amount, to continue collaborations with a multitude of partners to ensure the migratory pathways of our Nation's birds remain connected and support sustainable populations.

A primary responsibility of NPS is to conserve and protect the natural and cultural resources and values at 429 park units, 25 trails, and 66 wild and



Black Canyon Narrows in Gunnison National Park, CO.

NPS Photo.

scenic rivers. NPS natural resource stewardship activities support active management, research, and projects to conserve, protect, and better understand park natural resources. NPS is managing invasive plants and animals, restoring disturbed ecosystems, and addressing the resiliency of park resources to climate changes to conserve iconic natural resources and enhance the visitor experience. NPS develops best management practices and applies science to understand the risks to park resources from environmental hazards, identifies specific factors that affect park resources and park investments, and develops approaches to make resources more resilient. National park lands are also venues to collaborate with partners and the public on this important work. The budget includes \$431.0 million for natural and cultural resource stewardship activities across the national parks, \$11.3 million above the 2024 CR level.

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) National Conservation Lands (NCL) system of national monuments and national conservation areas comprise nearly 37 million acres. The NCL system was created to recognize and help protect

the outstanding value of these unique places, which are some of BLM's most popular and heavily visited sites. The 2025 budget includes \$54.6 million, \$4.0 million above the 2024 CR level, to maintain and operate these areas on behalf of the public. The funds support the management and operation of the NCL sites to protect and conserve these special places and address the impacts of stressors, such as high recreational use, invasive species, and climate change. BLM and its volunteers provide key visitor services and interpretive programs at areas with the highest visitation to offer the American people exceptional areas for recreation. The budget includes \$61.5 million, \$5.9 million above the 2024 CR level, for recreation management activities across BLM. That amount includes increased funding to implement the MAPLand (Modernizing Access to Our Public Land) Act to improve geospatial data about and facilitate access to BLM-managed public lands.

Interior bureaus often work collaboratively to address cross-cutting resource stewardship challenges. A longstanding example of this approach is Interior's ongoing support to



Pronghorn at Seedskaadee National Wildlife Refuge, WY.

FWS Photo.

enhance wildlife migration corridors and habitat connectivity to help ensure fish and wildlife have the freedom to move and migrate, as areas are increasingly fragmented by roads, fences, and other barriers. Since 2018, Interior has worked in partnership with 11 Western States, a wide diversity of nongovernmental organizations, and Western Tribes to support projects to better understand migration routes, remove barriers to migrating wildlife, and improve habitat conditions on public and private lands. The budget includes \$12.0 million for migration corridor activities in FWS, BLM, NPS, and USGS to help leverage public-private partnership efforts to protect pronghorn, elk, mule

deer, and other iconic species across the West. As part of this work, USGS has led development of the coproduced science needed to manage migration corridors. Because of the widely acknowledged value of this work and the recognition of increasing threats to Western landscapes, the 2025 USGS budget includes \$3.9 million to support this work, a program increase of \$3.5 million above the 2024 CR level.

Interior plays a leadership role in implementing the National Seed Strategy (NSS) to support ecosystem restoration by addressing the increasing demand for native seed that outpaces the supply. The NSS provides a framework for coordination across Federal agencies and other partners and cooperators to build an adequate supply of native seeds.

Through investments made possible by the BIL and IRA, Interior is investing in the critical infrastructure necessary to have a viable native seed industry that can supply the right seeds at the right time to restoration projects conducted by Interior and its partners. Developing a reliable, abundant and diverse supply of native seeds is foundational to ensuring ecosystems can thrive for current and future generations. Collecting, producing and procuring native seeds is critical for restoring native vegetation, and special facilities are required to prepare, store and safeguard genetically diverse seeds. The NSS Keystone Initiative (KI) codifies many efforts across the Department to build on those successful efforts. The NSS KI invests in the infrastructure, tools, research and labor needed for a robust native seed supply chain, including by expanding Tribal greenhouse facilities, assisting local farmers in transitioning from high-water crops to low-water native plant crops, connecting underserved communities in native seed collection via the Seeds of Success program, and increasing regional seed production capacity. These efforts will help foster the availability of native seeds for communities to support nature-based solutions, rebuild habitat, and boost ecosystem services. A critical part of the work funded to date has been to improve science and technical assistance to address native plants that have been historically difficult to grow and taking collections across many climatic zones and ecoregions to supply starter seed. Work



is also underway to develop better restoration practices for land managers. Existing practices often suffer from a lack of the ecological knowledge and perspective possessed by Tribal cultures and a lack of research on the effects of current climate change that would make projects more successful.

To build on this investment and the decade of BLM support for the NSS, Interior’s 2025 budget includes \$27.2 million, \$4.3 million above the 2024 CR level,

across BLM, FWS, and BIA to implement the NSS as part of Interior’s core operations. This investment is needed to do the following:

- Coordinate the development of plant materials and research at a national level, including guiding the development of a seed warehouse system and seed logistics, developing data-sharing portals, and integrating restoration science and best management practices.

## Advancing a National Early Detection and Rapid Response Framework for Invasive Species

Invasive species pose a substantial threat to native plants and wildlife and often affect human health, economies, and commercial, agricultural, and recreational activities. Combating invasive species is a significant part of Interior’s resource stewardship activities. The Department is actively addressing these challenges, including by undertaking early detection and rapid response (EDRR) to find and eradicate invasive species infestations before they establish, spread, and cause harm.

Interior is working to implement a national EDRR framework of actions to address invasive species before they become well established. Leveraging investments from the BIL, Interior bureaus are identifying high-risk invasive species and invasion hotspots across the Nation to inform early detection efforts. This investment is also being used to develop molecular tools to aid early detection capabilities, expand capacity for on-the-ground surveillance and rapid response actions, and create an online information system to guide detection and response actions. These tools include horizon scanning to systematically examine potential invasive threats with a high likelihood of introduction to the United States, hotspot analysis and mapping to identify high-risk habitats to help prioritize early detection surveillance, new modeling capabilities to forecast invasion, and genomic libraries and eDNA markers to detect target species more easily.

This investment creates transformational approaches to accomplish EDRR outcomes through cross-cutting, coordinated projects benefiting a broad range of partners. These efforts complement existing EDRR efforts underway by Interior and its partners, including

the National Invasive Species Council member agencies, Invasive Species Advisory Committee, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, States, Tribes, territories, local governments, and other entities.

The 2025 budget includes \$25.6 million for EDRR as part of \$166.1 million across DOI to address invasive species. DOI’s portion includes \$2.6 million within FWS to establish a base program for a Rapid Response

Fund for Aquatic Invasive Species, first piloted in 2023 with BIL funding, to support or lead rapid response actions to respond to new high-risk invasions of national significance. FWS will also contribute expertise to a new Interior-wide Interjurisdictional Invasive Species Rapid Response Team pilot program to carry out expedited management responses to new infestations across jurisdictions. The aim of both efforts is to build capacity to support rapid response actions to achieve management objectives of the National EDRR Framework.

Another set of projects will leverage the tools and information developed

through the National EDRR Framework to guide strategic implementation on the ground. This framework will help to better integrate invasive species early detection into more Interior operations to make DOI’s resources more resilient to emerging invasive species. For instance, surveillance projects will focus early detection on Interior’s infrastructure—such as dams, canals, and fish hatcheries—to target invasive species early in the invasion process, when eradication is most feasible and efficient. Other projects will focus surveillance at invasion hotspots, which are the highest risk areas for the introduction of high-risk invasive species.



The four stages of the National Early Detection Rapid Response Framework. Source: USGS.

- Support two new ecoregional plant material hubs to coordinate and analyze seed needs, develop species and ecotype priorities, and create joint seed collection and production projects.
- Better incorporate Indigenous knowledge and research into restoration practices and codevelop and share best management practices for seed production and use in restoration.

These investments are consistent with congressional direction to “supply native plant materials for emergency stabilization and longer term rehabilitation” and will strengthen broader restoration efforts by helping to reduce suppliers’ uncertainty of demand for seed, increase the availability of stock seeds, and increase knowledge sharing.

**Land and Water Conservation Fund**

The GAOA established permanent, annual funding totaling \$900.0 million a year for the LWCF. The LWCF supports the conservation of lands and

resources and outdoor recreation through a suite of programs managed by the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture. These programs include funding to acquire lands to be managed by NPS, FWS, BLM, and USFS and several important grant programs that encourage local conservation and recreation investments. The investments made through the LWCF directly support the objectives of the Administration’s America the Beautiful initiative by encouraging locally led conservation and outdoor recreation opportunities in cities and towns across the country.

The 2025 budget proposes to allocate \$681.9 million for Interior’s permanently funded LWCF programs, which includes \$313.0 million for Interior land acquisition, \$360.8 million for grant programs, and \$8.0 million for a new LWCF Tribal program. Interior’s land acquisition programs in BLM, FWS, and NPS prioritize projects with strong local partner engagement, protect at-risk natural or cultural resources, and advance the missions of the bureaus. In 2025, the Department proposes \$8.0 million to establish a new LWCF Tribal Land



Bohemian waxwings.

DOI Photo.

Acquisition program in the OS allocation. The program will enable Tribes to directly participate in the LWCF for the first time to acquire lands for natural and cultural resource conservation and recreation access. The program will award funds for Tribal land acquisition project proposals consistent with the purposes of the LWCF and other program criteria. BIA held formal Tribal consultation on the establishment of the program and eligibility criteria in the fall of 2023, at which Tribes expressed support for the proposed program and provided initial input on criteria.

The remainder of the \$900.0 million available for LWCF is included in the budget for USFS, which allocates \$218.1 million for LWCF Federal land acquisition and grant programs. In addition to the permanent LWCF funding to be allocated in 2025, another \$117.9 million in Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) oil and gas revenue is estimated to be available for LWCF State formula grants, providing a total of \$408.6 million. Together with the proposed permanent funding allocation, Interior's total funding available for LWCF in 2025 is \$799.7 million. A table of LWCF funding and a detailed list of 2025 proposed LWCF land acquisition projects are provided in the appendixes.

## Creating Jobs and Meeting Energy and Environmental Challenges

Interior's programs create jobs and spur economic growth in a variety of areas—energy and minerals, recreation and tourism, irrigation and other water-related activities, grants and payments, and infrastructure investment. Enactment of the GAOA, the BIL, and the IRA have and will continue to significantly expand Interior's contributions to America's economic and job growth. A DOI analysis completed in 2023 found that investments from three BIL-funded programs alone—Abandoned Mine Land; Orphaned Well Plugging, Remediation, and Reclamation; and Water Resources—support on average 17,669 jobs and generate \$2.0 billion for the U.S. economy each year. The 2025 budget maintains a consistent strategy to emphasize investments that create jobs and better position the country to be more competitive worldwide.

## Creating Jobs for America

In July 2023, at the 2-year anniversary of the signing of the BIL, the Department of the Interior released a new analysis estimating three key investments from the historic law support on average 17,669 jobs and contribute an average of \$2.0 billion to the economy each year.

The BIL will provide an overall \$28.1 billion over 15 years for work at Interior to combat legacy pollution, restore critical habitats, address the drought crisis, strengthen wildland fire management, and help communities prepare for and build resilience to extreme weather events. Since enactment of the law, the Department has, among other milestones, accomplished the following:

- As of February 2024 announced close to \$9 billion for over 1,700 projects across the country and launched an [interactive map](#) to track these investments;
- Established a new Orphaned Wells Program Office to ensure effective, accountable, and efficient implementation of the new program to clean up orphaned oil and gas wells on Federal, State, and Tribal lands;
- Unveiled a Restoration and Resilience Framework, which guides the more than \$2 billion in investments from the BIL and the IRA to restore our Nation's lands and waters;
- Launched a Voluntary Community Driven Relocation initiative with more than \$135 million in Federal commitments to assist Tribal communities severely affected by climate-related environmental threats;
- In conjunction with USDA, established a joint firefighter behavioral health program to support firefighter health and well-being; and
- Waived grant matching requirements for American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands to reduce the financial burden for U.S. territories accessing this funding.

## Developing a Robust Clean Energy Economy

The 2025 budget continues to advance the Administration's clean energy goals. Interior has made significant progress to stand up clean energy projects on public lands and establish a strong offshore wind energy program, which will create good-paying union jobs and help the transition to a decarbonized economy.

At the start of 2024, two U.S. offshore wind energy sites announced the first delivery of electricity to the



Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement Director Kevin Sligh tours Vineyard Wind's wind turbine laydown yard in February 2024.

*BSEE Photo.*

grid from projects off New England and Montauk, NY. This event came on the heels of Interior's announcement at the end of 2023 that the Nation's sixth commercial offshore wind energy project had been approved and a new offshore wind lease sale was proposed in the Central Atlantic. Four offshore wind-lease auctions have taken place during this Administration, which have brought in almost \$5.5 billion in high bids. BOEM has also advanced the process to explore additional opportunities for offshore wind energy development, including in the Gulf of Maine and Gulf of Mexico and offshore the U.S. Central Atlantic and Oregon coasts. Also, this year, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) stood up a regulatory and enforcement program for this new offshore industry. BSEE is also preparing a regulatory update to ensure safe development and operation of offshore wind facilities.

In 2023, BLM approved 10 wind, solar, and geothermal projects that, when built, will power millions of homes across the West. The Administration also made significant progress clearing the way for key transmission lines crossing federally managed lands and celebrated

the groundbreakings of the TransWest Express Transmission Project (Wyoming), the Ten West Link (Arizona and California), and the SunZia Transmission Project (New Mexico, Arizona, and California).

BLM is processing more than three dozen utility-scale onshore clean energy projects proposed on public lands—including solar, wind, and geothermal projects—and the interconnected generation tie lines vital for connecting clean energy projects on non-Federal land to transmission lines. These projects have the combined potential to add more than 22 gigawatts of renewable energy to the Western electric grid.

Overall, the budget includes \$189.3 million, \$35.3 million above the 2024 CR level, to continue the Administration's progress in deploying clean energy, spurring economic development, and creating thousands of good-paying jobs. Funding supports the leasing, planning, and permitting of solar, wind, and geothermal energy projects and associated transmission infrastructure that will help mitigate the impacts of climate change and support the Administration's goal of deploying 30 gigawatts

of offshore wind capacity by 2030 and 25 gigawatts of clean energy capacity on public lands by 2025.

The 2025 budget includes \$53.1 million for BLM's onshore renewable energy program, \$12.1 million above the 2024 CR level. The request will help build staffing capacity at BLM's Renewable Energy Coordination Offices and accelerate planning and permitting to accommodate increased demand and workload. BLM also plans to undertake market and technology trend analysis; enhance engagement with States, counties, and Tribes; and work to adopt a regional approach to permitting and environmental reviews.

The 2025 budget includes \$52.0 million for BOEM's Renewable Energy program, a \$9.2 million increase above the 2024 CR level. This request includes funding to continue to support permitting for projects proposed on existing leases and activities associated with Interior's current Offshore Wind Leasing Path Forward 2021–2025. The budget includes \$21.7 million within BOEM's Environmental Programs for studies that inform clean energy decisions, an increase of \$1.7 million, which includes additional funding for environmental reviews associated with offshore renewable energy projects.

The budget for BSEE includes \$12.6 million to continue work in support of offshore renewable energy deployment. BSEE anticipates receiving more than 40,000 wind engineering, construction, and other technical reports for review through the end of 2025. The bureau is working closely with BOEM to implement the framework needed to ensure offshore renewable energy projects are constructed and operated safely and responsibly.

### **Conventional Energy**

The budget for BOEM provides \$67.5 million for conventional energy programs, approximately \$6.0 million above the 2024 CR level, to support OCS planning, leasing, and oversight. This work includes inventorying oil and gas reserves; overseeing ongoing activities; ensuring adequate financial assurances for decommissioning liability and risk management; implementing the 2024–2029 National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program; reviewing and administering oil and gas

exploration and development plans and geological and geophysical permits; and conducting economic analyses, environmental studies, and resource evaluation. Decisions pertaining to conventional energy activities receive support from the Environmental Programs funding.

The 2025 budget for BSEE includes \$213.0 million that supports conventional energy program work. This funding supports OCS permit application reviews, regulation and standard development for offshore activities, verification and enforcement of operator compliance with all applicable environmental laws and regulations, technical reviews of planned operations and emerging technologies to properly identify and mitigate risks, an annual inspection program that includes risk-based inspections, and incident investigations. Within this funding, BSEE will continue to strengthen its technical workforce to keep pace with an evolving industry with increasingly complex deepwater operations. BSEE's budget also includes \$12.0 million to fund the decommissioning of orphaned offshore oil and gas infrastructure. This funding, along with funding from other sources, will be used to address the most immediate and urgent well, pipeline, and platform



A deepwater offshore production platform, Gulf of Mexico.

BSEE Photo.

decommissioning needs to help reduce the risk of pollution.

Included in the 2025 budget is \$115.8 million for BLM's Oil and Gas Management program, an increase of \$3.0 million from the 2024 CR level. The BLM budget also includes \$51.0 million for Oil and Gas Inspection Activities and proposes to offset the cost of this program through onshore inspection fees.

The 2025 budget continues to support onshore and offshore carbon sequestration activities. The BIL provides authority to the Secretary of the Interior to grant a lease, easement, or right-of-way on the OCS for activities that "provide for, support, or are directly related to the injection of a carbon dioxide stream into sub-seabed geologic formations for the purpose of long-term carbon sequestration." Carbon sequestration permanently stores carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in secure subsurface geologic reservoirs to reduce the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere and mitigate its impact on global climate change. BOEM and BSEE are working to develop and publish draft offshore carbon sequestration regulations for public comment. The proposed rule will address aspects of carbon sequestration on the OCS, including the transportation and geologic sequestration of CO<sub>2</sub>, leasing of OCS areas for that purpose, storage site characterization (i.e., delineation of potential storage reservoirs), environmental plans and mitigation measures, facility and infrastructure design and installation, injection operations, monitoring, incident response, financial assurance, and safety, among other issues.

While the rule is under development, BOEM and BSEE will continue to develop their carbon sequestration programs to facilitate program implementation upon final rule publication. The 2025 BOEM budget includes \$1.0 million to establish a dedicated carbon sequestration team and fund environmental studies, scientific research, data collection, and other activities critical to implement the new program. The 2025 BSEE budget includes \$1.5 million to prepare to regulate and oversee safe and effective offshore carbon sequestration activities.

## Addressing Offshore Orphaned Infrastructure

Operator bankruptcies are a growing concern for both the agency and taxpayers. When the responsible parties for offshore infrastructure go bankrupt or otherwise fail to perform, the obligation for decommissioning their infrastructure may fall to the Federal Government. Orphaned offshore oil and gas infrastructure can pose serious safety hazards and potentially cause ongoing air, water, and other environmental damage. BSEE and BOEM work together to ensure all infrastructure is properly decommissioned to support the long-term protection of the surrounding environment.

Beginning in 2023, BSEE developed a series of multiyear contracts to properly plug and abandon orphaned wells on the OCS and properly decommission associated orphaned pipelines and structures. In January 2024, BSEE awarded a task order for decommissioning orphaned infrastructure in the Matagorda Island Area of the Gulf of Mexico, which was funded by a combination of financial assurances, direct appropriations, and the BIL Federal Orphaned Well Program. BSEE will continue to issue contracts to perform decommissioning on the Gulf of Mexico OCS in 2024 and 2025.

## Accelerating Implementation

The BIL and the IRA have spurred investment in Federal and private sector infrastructure projects that are strengthening and advancing all sectors of the economy, building climate resilience, and creating more American jobs. The Administration is coordinating efforts across Federal agencies to streamline processes as appropriate to responsibly get these projects underway. Interior is actively engaged in those efforts, primarily as they concern statutorily required ESA permit reviews.

The 2025 budget invests in environmental permitting capacity to accelerate delivery of modernized infrastructure across the Nation and avoid delays. The FWS budget includes \$160.1 million for ESA planning and consultation and migratory bird permitting, an increase of \$33.7 million above the 2024 CR level. The budget continues to propose appropriations language to facilitate the transfer of BIL funding from Federal agencies to FWS and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries to expedite ESA consultations. Together with existing law, this proposal will help to avoid delays

in required reviews of infrastructure projects and energy solutions to minimize negative environmental impacts.

The budget includes \$13.5 million in 2025, an increase of \$6.0 million from the 2024 CR level, to advance electronic permitting efforts through the proposed consolidated ePermits program activity. FWS implemented ePermits in 2020 as an easy-to-use, modern, secure system that streamlines the end-to-end process for permits processed by FWS. The program makes it easier for applicants to properly identify and submit complete application packages and helps to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the agency review process. Although FWS has achieved a secure and modern system that enables permit applicants to apply and pay processing fees for permits online, work remains to be done on ePermits to build and optimize features to better achieve efficiency and streamlining. The requested increase supports operations and maintenance requirements and program enhancements.

### **Reclamation Jobs**

The BIL invests nearly \$16.0 billion, mostly through grants to States and Tribes, to reclaim abandoned coal mine lands and orphaned oil and gas wells

in communities across the country. Millions of Americans live less than 1 mile from a dangerous abandoned coal mine or toxic orphaned oil and gas well. Methane pollution from many of those unplugged wells poses a serious safety hazard and is a significant driver of climate change, with methane being more than 25 times as potent as carbon dioxide in trapping heat in the atmosphere. Not only are those sites environmental hazards but they also jeopardize public health and safety, increase flood risks, and can cause sinkholes that harm neighborhoods, roadways, and wildlife.

With these historic new resources from the BIL, States, Tribes, and Federal land managers have already remediated more than 6,000 orphaned oil and gas wells, and funding will be used to continue to address thousands of abandoned mine land problems—creating jobs and revitalizing local economies in the process. All this work, implemented by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) and the Department’s new Orphaned Wells Program Office, also advances President Biden’s Justice40 initiative, which aims to address current and historical environmental injustice. Complementing these efforts, USGS has developed a national mine waste inventory, which leverages the USGS Earth Mapping



Abandoned coal mine in Utah.

BLM Photo.

Resources Initiative and supports partnerships with Federal and State agencies to evaluate the potential to reprocess critical minerals from mine waste as part of site reclamation.

The 2025 budget continues to provide annual ongoing support for related reclamation activities targeting State and Tribal reclamation needs associated with abandoned hardrock mines, legacy pollution on Interior's lands, and innovative coal mine reclamation projects directly supporting local economic growth. The Administration is committed to remediating the physical and environmental hazards to repair those lands, improve air and water quality, and, at the same time, create jobs in rural communities. The budget includes \$7.0 million, \$2.0 million above the 2024 CR level, for the Abandoned Hardrock Mine Reclamation Program to support State, Tribal, and Federal efforts to inventory and address legacy sites on their lands. Abandoned hardrock mine sites often pose significant health and safety risks to surrounding areas and are

found across the country. Many States, Tribes, and Federal land programs do not have good inventories or strong programs to manage those sites. This program targets the need to build capacity and begin to address this longstanding problem.

On Interior lands, the Department has identified thousands of mines and features that pose safety risks and generate environmental contaminants. USGS, in partnership with BLM, has developed the first national database of current and historical mine features. Tens of thousands of legacy pollution sites are on BLM lands alone, including roughly 56,600 abandoned hardrock mine sites, many of which pose serious threats to the public and the environment. Rural and Tribal communities proximate to historic mining sites feel the physical and environmental impacts of those sites most keenly, but the growing popularity of BLM lands for recreation has placed even more people in harm's way. The budget includes \$58.4 million for BLM's Abandoned Mine Lands and Hazardous Materials

## Critical Minerals

The Department of the Interior-led Interagency Working Group on Mining Laws, Regulations, and Permitting (IWG) released its final report containing recommendations to reform and improve the way mining is conducted on U.S. public lands. The report is informing efforts to modernize the Mining Law of 1872 and related Federal permitting processes as part of the Administration's efforts to increase domestic supplies of critical minerals and uphold the strongest environmental, labor, and community engagement standards.

The rapid buildout of a clean energy economy is fueling a significant increase in demand for responsibly sourced critical minerals that power everything from consumer electronics to electric vehicle batteries. President Biden's [Executive Order 14017](#), America's Supply Chains, ordered a review of vulnerabilities in our critical mineral and material supply chains. Following that first-of-its-kind assessment, the Department launched the IWG to review laws, regulations, policies, and permitting processes pertaining to hardrock mineral development.

The IWG report recognizes that the rapidly increasing demand for critical minerals will drive a surge in mine planning, permitting, and environmental analyses. The report therefore recommends increased investment in mining-related training and agency resources to increase pre-application engagement and

efficiently coordinate and complete environmental and permitting reviews. The 2025 budget includes a \$3.0 million increase in BLM's Mining Law Administration program to improve domestic mining permitting by hiring up to 25 new minerals staff and mining law adjudicators, provide additional training to ensure uniform application of regulations, and increase the capacity to review and approve mining plans of operations.

Earlier this year, USGS launched [CriticalMinerals.gov](#) on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy-led National Science and Technology Council's Critical Minerals Subcommittee. USGS provides statistics on the supply, demand, and trade of mineral commodities; leads the Federal Government in developing the Nation's list of critical minerals; conducts assessments of the potential for critical minerals in the ground and in mine waste; and conducts critical mineral supply chain forecasting and scenario analysis, which informs billions of dollars in Federal and private sector investments and includes risk analysis methodologies for supply chain disruptions, ranging from trade wars to natural disasters to electric vehicle market penetration. The 2025 budget invests in systems to provide earlier and additional forecasts than currently exist, accelerating USGS' ability to identify supply chain disruptions in advance of economic impacts and events ranging from earthquakes to pandemics.





Piper Mine Reclamation Project on the Cahaba National Wildlife Refuge, AL.

OSMRE Photo.

Management program, \$1.3 million above the 2024 CR level, which will work in tandem with national Abandoned Hardrock Mine Reclamation Program efforts to inventory and remediate those sites more broadly on State, private, Tribal, and other Federal agency lands.

OSMRE works with States and Tribes to regulate active coal mines to ensure environmental problems do not occur and remediate abandoned coal mines to address health and safety hazards. High-priority abandoned coal mine problems can include clogged streams, acid mine drainage, dangerous highwalls, waste piles or embankments, subsidence, underground mine fires, and polluted water—all of which can pose immediate threats to the public health and safety of communities. OSMRE manages the State and Tribal abandoned mine reclamation grant programs authorized by the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act and the BIL. In 2023, OSMRE invested nearly \$1 billion in coal communities, including \$724.8 million made available to 22 States and the Navajo Nation for reclamation as part of the BIL and \$126.5 million available through the traditional, fee-funded,

mandatory Abandoned Mine Land (AML) grant program.

OSMRE also manages the Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) grant program, which administers grants to six States and three Tribal Nations to return legacy coal mining sites to productive uses and foster economic and community development. Since 2016, the AMLER program has provided more than \$900 million to America's current and former coal communities to deliver economic and community development and achieve reclamation of historic abandoned mine sites. The 2025 budget includes \$135.0 million to continue support for AMLER grants.

In 2025, the OSMRE budget includes \$2.5 million to provide grants to nongovernmental organizations and local and State government agencies to help construct, operate, maintain, and rehabilitate abandoned mine land passive-treatment systems that were previously constructed to address water pollution from mine drainage. This funding helps local communities protect the investments made in passive-treatment systems installed to address water pollution discharges from abandoned mine lands.

## Tribal Nations Summit

In late 2023, the Administration held the annual Tribal Nations Summit, which provides an opportunity for the Administration and Tribal leaders from the 574 federally recognized Tribes to discuss ways the Federal Government can invest in and strengthen nation-to-nation relationships and ensure that progress in Indian Country endures for years to come. Interior announced several important achievements at the 2023 Summit, including the following:

- **Increasing Tribal Co-Stewardship of Lands and Waters:** In 2023, the Departments of Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce signed nearly 200 new co-stewardship agreements with Tribes, Alaska Native corporations, and consortiums. This number compares with 20 completed agreements reported by Interior and Agriculture at last year's Summit. The Interior Department also released its second annual report on Tribal co-stewardship, which outlines implementation of S.O. 3403 on Fulfilling the Trust Responsibility to Indian Tribes in the Stewardship of Federal Lands and Waters and highlights the agreements the Interior Department entered into in the past year.
- **Centering Indigenous Knowledge in the Department's Work:** Interior published departmental guidance on the inclusion and protection of Indigenous knowledge in decision making and scientific research. A new chapter in the agency's Departmental Manual formalizes Indigenous knowledge as a foundational

piece of the Department's mission and formally recognizes Indigenous knowledge as one of the many important knowledge systems that contribute to the well-being of the United States and to our collective understanding of the natural world. Although the Department's bureaus and offices have at times historically included Indigenous knowledge in certain actions or scientific research, this new chapter will facilitate and encourage the Department's consistent, broad, and equitable inclusion of Indigenous knowledge internally and externally.

- **Protecting Indigenous Sacred Sites:** The White House Council on Native American Affairs, cochaired by Secretary Haaland and Domestic Policy Advisor Neera Tanden, published a Best Practices Guide for Federal Agencies Regarding Tribal and Native Hawaiian Sacred Sites. The guide provides best practices, procedures, and guidance for the management, treatment, and protection of sacred sites. It also identifies impediments to Federal-level protection of sacred sites and identifies ways to address and remedy the impediments. The initial draft was informed by feedback gathered at two listening sessions, and the final version has been expanded and improved based on comments received through Tribal and Native Hawaiian consultation. The Federal Government manages a diverse inventory of lands and waters that contain sites held sacred by Tribes and the Native Hawaiian community.

## Strengthening Tribal Nations

Honoring the Nation's government-to-government relationships with Tribes and upholding trust and treaty responsibilities are paramount to Interior's mission. Through initiatives addressing complex and difficult challenges, such as addressing the legacy of the Federal Indian Boarding Schools, meeting the need for native language revitalization, and coordinating Federal efforts to address Missing and Murdered Indigenous People, this Administration's commitment to respect the sovereignty of Tribal Nations and address longstanding disparities is unprecedented.

### **Honoring Tribal Sovereignty**

The 2025 budget makes significant investments in Tribal sovereignty and revitalization, providing new and expanded funding opportunities and resources for Tribes to manage their lands and waters. Interior's efforts to strengthen Tribal

sovereignty extend across the Department and with other Federal partners. For example, the Department held Tribal consultation sessions with the USDA, with the participation of NOAA, in which participants consistently pointed to the adverse impacts the changing climate is having on Alaska Native communities and subsistence practices, and they emphasized the need to expand Tribal co-management partnerships and incorporate Indigenous knowledge into subsistence management. Subsistence practices are vital to the lifeways of Alaska Native communities and people. Alaska Native people depend heavily on subsistence practices for their nutritional, social, economic, and traditional cultural needs. The budget includes additional increases in FWS and NPS to support resource management associated with Alaska Native subsistence and addresses Tribal input regarding the proposed transfer of the Office of Subsistence Management from FWS to BIA.

In late 2023, Secretary Haaland hosted the 12th and final session of the “The Road to Healing” tour, a year-long commitment to travel across the country to allow survivors of the Federal Indian boarding school system the opportunity to share their stories and help connect communities with trauma-informed support. Building upon that effort, the Department announced the launch of an oral history project to document and make accessible the experiences of the generations of Indigenous children who attended the Federal boarding school system.

The oral history project—the first of its kind to be undertaken by the Federal Government—is part of the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative and will ensure stories and experiences that survivors share can be heard by, and learned from, current and future generations. The project will focus on gathering first-person survivor narratives and establishing an oral history collection. Survivors will have the opportunity to make their interviews available to Federal partners, Tribal governments, policymakers, researchers, and the public. The Department will continue its engagement with the Department of Health and Human Services, including the Indian Health Service and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, to coordinate trauma-informed, survivor-centered support during these engagements.

During Interior’s Federal Boarding School Initiative “Road to Healing” listening sessions, one of the most significant Tribal concerns expressed was the devastating impact that boarding school policies had on the retention of Native languages in their communities. To address those concerns, the 2025 budget includes \$18.0 million, an increase of \$11.5 million from the 2024 CR amount, to expand BIA grant awards for Tribal Native language revitalization programs that are imperative to restore generational continuity and Tribal culture and strengthen Tribal sovereignty.

At the 2023 White House Tribal Nations Summit, the Department announced new regulations to improve the process for fee-to-trust, or land-into-trust, acquisitions that transfer land title to the United States to be held in trust for the benefit of a Tribe or individual Tribal citizen. The final rule will make this process simpler, more efficient, and less expensive. The acquisition of land in trust is essential to Tribal self-determination and to maximize Tribes’ eligibility for Federal services and programs. This process helps right the wrongs of past policies such as allotment, which removed millions of acres of land from Tribal ownership and Federal protection. By placing lands into trust status through the Department, Tribes can reacquire lands, establish a land base for Tribal communities, and clarify jurisdiction over their lands. Tribes have previously faced delays and increasing costs



White House Tribal Nations Summit, 2023.

DOI Photo.



Havasupai Tribal Council Meeting.

DOI Photo.

in efforts to manage services and develop local economies as a result of inefficiencies and delays in the land-into-trust process.

Complementing the recent changes in the land-into-trust process, the budget proposes to allocate \$8.0 million of permanent funding from the LWCF to establish a new program to support Tribal land acquisition for conservation and outdoor recreation. During LWCF listening sessions, one of the top priorities sovereign Tribes identified was having direct access to LWCF funding for conservation and recreation projects without partnering with or applying through States. The funding will provide Tribes the opportunity to acquire lands to protect and conserve natural resource areas, which may also be of cultural importance to the Tribe or have significant recreational benefits for Tribal communities, consistent with the purposes of LWCF funding.

The 2025 budget maintains the Administration's strong commitment to fully fund Tribal Contract Support Costs and Tribal 105(l) lease costs, which compensate Tribes for the cost of administering programs on behalf of the Federal Government, and for the use of tribally owned space for the operation

of Government-owned services. The budget continues to propose to reclassify these required costs as mandatory funding starting in 2026 and, for 2025, proposes discretionary funding to fully fund requirements in the budget year: an estimated \$426.2 million for Contract Support Costs and \$120.0 million for Tribal 105(l) Lease Costs.

### ***Investing in Tribal Communities***

The budget includes \$2.9 billion for BIA programs, \$344.8 million above the 2024 CR level. The 2025 BIA budget contains significant investments in Tribal communities, including \$73.1 million for the Tiwahe Initiative, \$28.6 million above the 2024 CR level. Under Tiwahe, funding assists Tribes at selected sites to implement a tribally driven approach to deliver essential services more effectively and efficiently. The initiative facilitates 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 approach to provide service. Tiwahe Initiative funding has also provided supplemental funding to a broader range of Tribes in some specific program areas, including ICWA and Social Services. Since 2015, the Tiwahe Initiative has focused primarily on promoting family stability through several Human Services programs. The Department's 2025 budget further expands Tiwahe in Social Services, Indian Child Welfare Act, Housing, and Tribal Justice Support programs.

The budget includes \$50.1 million, \$10.9 million above the 2024 CR level, to address another longstanding Tribal priority: to improve road maintenance. Poor road conditions directly affect the quality of life in many Tribal communities, limiting transportation for public safety and emergency response, travel to school, and travel to work. This additional investment increases maintenance for an additional 5,000 miles of BIA roads. Funding will also increase bridge maintenance and safety reviews of 250 bridges to inform prioritization, project selection, and planning to better implement construction funding available through the BIL. The estimated deferred maintenance for BIA roads and bridges is nearly \$400 million. BIA's budget includes additional

investments in Tribal communities in areas such as Tribal climate resilience, social services, housing, and land consolidation.

Public safety continues to be a top priority for Tribal leaders across the country. The elevated level of concern is coupled with emerging needs to expand services to address the *McGirt v. Oklahoma* decision and the needs of 31 Tribes that are eligible for but do not receive BIA public safety and justice funding. The budget includes \$651.2 million in Tribal Public Safety and Justice funding, a net total change of \$71.5 million above the 2024 CR level, to support

critical public safety needs in Indian Country. The request provides additional resources to help meet Tribal needs in policing, detention, and Tribal courts. A \$41.9 million program increase is included for Criminal Investigations and Police Services; of that amount, \$33.5 million is specifically targeted to increase the number of officers and investigators on the ground in Indian Country. The budget also includes a \$20.1 million increase for Detention and Corrections programs and maintains public safety and justice construction funding at the 2024 CR level of \$51.6 million.

### Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

The budget includes \$7.1 million across DOI bureaus to support implementation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). The funding includes increases totaling \$2.9 million in BIA, BLM, FWS, NPS, OS, and Reclamation to support and coordinate expedited repatriation and disposition of Tribal and Native Hawaiian ancestors and cultural property consistent with the final rule announced in December 2023 and effective on January 12, 2024, to revise regulations for implementing NAGPRA. These regulations provide systematic processes for returning Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony to lineal descendants, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHOs). The revised regulations streamline requirements for museums and Federal agencies, including DOI bureaus and offices, to inventory, identify, and repatriate Native American human remains and cultural items in their collections and discovered on Federal and Tribal lands. These regulations also require museums and Federal agencies to consult with and receive consent before accessing, exhibiting, or researching collections that may contain Native American human remains and cultural items subject to the Act.

The final rule incorporates input from all comments, especially those from Tribes and NHOs, to the maximum extent possible. The revised regulations are as follows:

- Strengthen the authority and role of Tribes and NHOs in the repatriation process by requiring deference to the Indigenous knowledge of lineal descendants, Tribes, and NHOs.
- Require museums and Federal agencies to obtain free, prior, and informed consent from lineal descendants, Tribes, or NHOs before allowing any exhibition of, access to, or research on human remains or cultural items.

- Eliminate the category "Culturally Unidentifiable Human Remains" and reset the requirements for cultural affiliation to better align the regulations with congressional intent.
- Increase transparency and reporting of holdings or collections and shed light on collections currently unreported under the existing regulation.
- Require museums and Federal agencies to consult and update inventories of human remains and associated funerary objects within 5 years of this final rule.

The 2025 budget supports bureau efforts to identify and repatriate Native American human remains and cultural items in bureau museum collections and discovered on agency lands, including Tribal consultation, coordination with custodial repositories, and activities required to complete repatriation of ancestral remains and cultural items. Interior bureaus are stewards for Native American places of special meaning across the landscape and Native American human remains, cultural items, artwork, and artifacts in museum collections. Interior bureaus collectively have inventoried more than 14,000 sets of Native American ancestral remains in collections; however, the process for 2,900 ancestors and 9,400 associated funerary objects is incomplete; unreported human remains and funerary objects may exist in Federal collections in the custody of non-Federal museums and universities; and sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony have yet to be identified by Tribal representatives.

NPS administers the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Grants program. The 2025 budget includes \$3.4 million to maintain support for these grants, which are available to museums, Indian Tribes, and NHOs to assist in consultation, documentation, and repatriation under NAGPRA.



A student at T'is Nazbas Community School in Teec Nos Pos, AZ.

BIE Photo.

The 2025 budget also includes \$111.3 million, level with the 2024 CR amount, to support Tribal and Individual Indian Money financial functions managed by the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA). BTFA was established under the Office of the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs in 2020 to house the ongoing financial trust management functions established through trust reforms carried out by the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians. BTFA currently serves as the financial manager for more than \$8 billion of Indian Trust Funds and provides services for 4,200 Tribal accounts and roughly 411,000 Individual Indian Money accounts. The 2025 budget continues to propose BTFA as a stand-alone bureau with critical independent functions for effective management of Indian assets and service to Indian Country. The Department held listening sessions on the future of BTFA, and the input received showed Tribes did not want to eliminate BTFA or its functions, and some Tribes would like to have expanded services from BTFA. The Department looks forward to working with Congress to ensure BTFA is fully recognized as a bureau to allow the organization to focus on its mission of serving Indian Country.

### **Advancing Indian Education**

Indian Education programs are funded in the 2025 budget at \$1.5 billion, an increase of \$119.5 million

above the 2024 CR level, 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 the gap, the budget invests in the day-to-day operations of BIE-funded elementary and secondary schools. The budget includes \$518.1 million, an increase of \$36.5 million above the 2024 CR level, for 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 resources to operate and maintain BIE-funded schools and fully funds the estimated \$100.7 million required for Tribal Grant Support costs, which cover the administration costs for Tribes that choose to operate BIE-funded schools. The 2025 budget also features \$7.5 million for Native language immersion programs at BIE schools.

The budget includes \$191.1 million for postsecondary schools and programs—including Haskell Indian Nations University and Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, Tribal colleges, universities, and technical colleges—and expanded Tribal scholarships and adult education programs.

At \$310.2 million in the 2025 budget, annual funding for Education Construction is \$42.3 million above the 2024 CR level. The 2025 budget also continues efforts to address BIE-funded school facilities in poor condition and deferred maintenance in the BIE school system, which totals more than 180 schools. The budget includes \$162.6 million, \$8.1 million above the 2024 CR level, for facilities operations and maintenance. An additional \$95.0 million in permanent funding for BIE school construction through the GAOA LRF is available in 2025 to support projects at two school campuses. Together, this funding will allow BIE to replace four schools in 2025 and address cost increases at schools funded in prior years.

### **BIE Health And Wellness**

In 2023, BIE awarded an additional 5-year contract to increase access to behavioral health and wellness support for all students and staff at bureau-funded schools and programs. Initially designed to increase access to services during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Behavioral Health and Wellness Program provides virtual counseling and onsite crisis services. BIE's Behavioral Health and Wellness Program provides students and staff at all bureau-funded schools and programs with Indigenous-focused, evidence-based, and trauma-informed behavioral health and wellness support. Services are tailored to meet the unique and diverse mental, cultural, spiritual, emotional, and social needs of Indigenous communities served by BIE.

Services include tele-behavioral health counseling focused on providing short-term, solution-focused, and culturally sensitive virtual counseling; a BIE-specific 24/7 crisis hotline; and onsite crisis support. The program's clinical team is primarily staffed with Indigenous clinicians, who have direct experience serving Native communities.

Virtual and onsite crisis support provides a comprehensive and systemic approach to assisting individuals or groups with critical incidents or traumatic events. Virtual services provide a way to overcome challenges, such as limited onsite providers, minimal transportation options, long wait times, and limited scheduling options for caregivers.

The program also provides various types of technical assistance and hosts trainings to promote suicide prevention and other resiliency-focused topics. Staff at BIE-funded schools will continue to have access to training and certification for Youth Mental Health First Aid, virtual talking circles, monthly behavioral health webinars, and professional development opportunities.

## **Promoting Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion of Underserved Communities**

Interior is taking steps across the Department to expand equity, diversity, and inclusion beyond day-to-day management policies to incorporate this concept into the delivery of DOI's missions. This commitment is consistent with the Administration's all-of-government approach to advance equity, civil rights, racial justice, and equal opportunity. Interior's 2025 budget request supports the actions needed to recognize and redress inequities and to proactively advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) within the Department's workforce and program implementation. The Department seeks to ensure that everyone—no matter their background or ZIP Code—can enjoy the benefits of Interior's mission programs.

### ***Increasing Representation and Tribal Co-Stewardship***

Reflecting the Administration's commitment to accessibility and inclusion, the budget includes targeted investments to increase representation in the delivery of Interior's core missions. An example is the \$3.1 million requested in the NPS budget to support recent or potential new designations that preserve important places and tell the stories of those historically underrepresented. Through the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program, NPS recently designated three new local parks in urban areas to increase residents' opportunities to connect with the outdoors. The designations include a park in Anchorage, AK, in an area with a high concentration of low-income youth; an aging park in Moorhead, MN, in a community with a high poverty rate; and Roosevelt Park in Buffalo, NY, to address a severely deteriorated multiuse athletics field built in the 1950s in a community with a high poverty rate.

The responsibility for meeting Tribal trust responsibilities and promoting Tribal sovereignty stretches across Interior. The 2025 budget includes targeted increases to expand Tribal co-stewardship across the Department. The NPS budget includes a \$3.0 million increase to directly support Tribal participation in management of Federal lands

and waters with cultural and natural resources of significance and value to Indian Tribes and their citizens, including sacred religious sites, burial sites, wildlife, and sources of Indigenous foods and medicines.

The budget for FWS includes increases totaling \$5.5 million to advance co-stewardship and engagement with Tribes on Indigenous knowledge research, conservation planning, and marine mammal management. Implicit in the Marine Mammal Protection Act is the realization that cooperative management of subsistence harvests between FWS and Alaska Native organizations is more likely to achieve the goals of the Act than management by a Federal agency alone. The budget provides strong support to continue to build these relationships with partners such as the Eskimo Walrus Commission and the Alaska Nannut Co-management Council, which is the FWS co-management partner for polar bears.

The NPS 2025 budget proposes \$2.5 million in dedicated funding for Tribal Heritage Grants within the Historic Preservation Fund to support Indian Tribes, Alaska Native villages and corporations, and NHOs for the preservation and protection of their cultural heritage in addition to other important ongoing Tribal programs.

The Reclamation budget includes \$29.5 million for its Native American Affairs Program, \$9.5 million above the 2024 CR level. The program supports a variety of Reclamation activities with Tribes, including technical assistance, drought assistance, the Secretary's Indian Water Rights Settlements Program, and outreach.

### **Strengthening Interior's Ongoing Commitment to Diversity and Equity**

The Department of the Interior is committed to maintaining a diverse workforce that reflects the public we serve and sustaining an equitable and inclusive workplace environment. In 2022, the Department published its first [Equity Action Plan](#), which was updated in 2024. It outlines efforts to advance equity through all DOI operations, remove barriers to equal opportunity, and deliver resources and benefits equitably to the public. The Equity Action Plan remains a key part of Interior's efforts

to implement [Executive Order 13985](#), Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government, and [Executive Order 14091](#), Further Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government, which call on Federal agencies to advance equity by identifying and addressing barriers to equal opportunity that underserved communities may face as a result of some government policies and programs.

### **BSEE Advances Commitment to a Diverse Workforce Through Partnerships**

To better promote diversity and create paths for the next generation of leaders in the workplace, BSEE and Shorter College signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to promote information sharing, provide opportunities for students to learn about careers at BSEE, and develop relationships that support recruitment efforts.

The MOU calls for BSEE and Shorter College to establish a framework for collaboration that provides opportunities for students to learn about some of BSEE's workplace platforms, including science and technology, engineering, computer science, and mathematics. BSEE will help educate students about numerous human resource professions, administrative areas, equal employment opportunity (EEO) professions, and generalist fields.

Shorter College—a private, not-for-profit, 2-year liberal arts college in North Little Rock, AR—is also a member of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO). The college is one of the Nation's 110 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and is the only private 2-year HBCU in the Nation.

In support of the Equity Action Plan, the 2025 budget includes program increases of \$2.8 million in OS for the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Civil Rights; Office of Human Capital; and Office of Collaborative Alternative Dispute Resolution to accomplish the following:

- Support implementation of DOI's DEIA Strategic and Equity Action Plans.
- Finalize implementation of DOI's automated tracking systems for EEO complaints and Public Civil Rights Complaints and



more streamlined processing for external civil rights claims and automated legally mandated reports.

- Enhance the antidiscrimination protections provided to DOI employees and job applicants, shielding them from harassing and retaliatory conduct while continuing to ensure their equitable access to all terms, benefits, and conditions of employment.
- Continue work to improve the quality and quantity of DEIA and EEO training resources offered through the development of education materials, internal control measures, and focused instructor-led training for bureaus and offices in the EEO and DEIA communities.
- Collaborate with Special Emphasis Program Managers to coordinate departmentwide Special Emphasis Observances (e.g., People with Disabilities Program, Federal Women’s Program, and Hispanic Employment Program) so that diversity is celebrated in a consistent and uniform way across Interior.

- Provide consultation and technical assistance to departmental offices on equity, diversity, and inclusion, including, but not limited to, training; coordination of education and cultural sensitivity and awareness programs; and solutions that enable the Department to be an employer of choice and reduce and resolve workplace conflicts.
- Finalize strategies and operationalize plans to help ensure the Department is a model employer.

The 2025 budget also includes funding to coordinate and manage departmentwide Justice40 efforts to help deliver at least 40 percent of the overall benefits from certain Federal investments in climate and clean energy to disadvantaged communities. In late 2023, the Department held three listening sessions and invited public comment to inform the development of the Department’s Environmental Justice Strategic Plan.



Secretary Halaand visiting the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument in January 2024.

DOI Photo.

## Indian Economic Enterprises

In 2023, the Department of the Interior's Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs announced the distribution of more than \$1.4 billion in contracts to Indian Economic Enterprises across the Department, including \$1.0 billion awarded to Indian Small Business Economic Enterprises, a historical high for the Department.

Last year, Indian Affairs announced new regulations to improve implementation of the Buy Indian Act and promote economic development opportunities in Indian Country. Through the new Buy Indian Act Information and Tools website, employees and public stakeholders can access training and stakeholder engagement and obtain information for Native American-owned businesses, providing an easily accessible way to identify and enhance the use of Native American vendors for contract opportunities under the Buy Indian initiative.

During the year, Indian Affairs awarded three smart acquisition vehicles totaling \$1.8 billion in potential award value to Indian-owned small businesses for construction, professional services, and program management consulting services. These contracts can be used by organizations across the Department and serve as important tools to continually expand the use of Native American-owned businesses.

Additional contracts awarded to Indian Economic Enterprises include the following:

- \$235.0 million for complete replacement design-build construction projects for three Bureau of Indian Education-funded schools: Chi Chil'tah Community School, Crystal Boarding School, and Tonalea Day School.
- \$58.3 million for the Oglala Dam Remediation Project to protect downstream communities and improve the overall performance of the dams. The investment uses funding from President Biden's BIL.
- \$38.0 million to address mental health and wellness needs of BIE students and staff at all BIE-funded institutions.
- \$31.0 million in architectural and engineering services for design, construction phase services, and assessments for bureau-operated facilities across Indian Affairs.

## Building Agency Capacity

Interior is strengthening the Department's delivery of core programs and services for the American people. Efforts to improve Interior's workforce

and operations and better leverage technology and information are underway across the Department.

## Strengthening Interior's Workforce and Infrastructure

Interior's mission activities rely on a talented and dedicated workforce; many bureau operations rely on direct public service, are located across the country, and are complex. At the end of 2023, Interior's staffing totaled 62,976 FTEs, which reflects staffing supported by annual appropriations and all other types of funding. When fully enacted, the Department's 2025 budget will support an estimated 66,240 FTEs, an increase of 1,293 FTEs from the estimated 2024 CR level. Interior continues to recruit, hire, and train the next generation of talented people who will reflect the diversity and strength of the United States.

The talent and expertise of Interior's workforce are critical to the continued delivery of the agency's important missions. Interior works to ensure employee recruitment and hiring practices remain competitive and inclusive. One of the most important tools in succession planning and achieving DEIA goals is next-generation hiring—creating entry-level opportunities, including paid internships, fellowships, and conversion opportunities for student employees to permanent positions.

Interior is building its capacity for next-generation hiring by promoting and expanding existing and emerging hiring authorities, working closely with the Office of Personnel Management and OMB. Recently, the Department received approval for use of term appointments excepted beyond general time limits for work in support of the GAOA and direct-hire authority for permitting positions. The Department continues to use direct-hire authority for wildland firefighting, information technology (IT), and STEM [science, technology, engineering and math] positions. Interior also recently increased the hiring of former Public Lands Corps participants, Resource Assistant interns, Knauss Fellows, and military spouses. These programs—when combined with Schedule A hiring for persons with disabilities, Pathways internships, hiring of recent graduates, and the Presidential Management



Secretary Haaland with United States Park Police at a promotion ceremony in October 2023.

DOI Photo.

Fellowship (PMF) program—will greatly affect the Department’s ability to acquire the talent needed to achieve its mission for the next several decades.

The budget includes \$206.0 million to fully support anticipated fixed-cost increases in 2025, assuming a 2.0-percent increase in Federal salaries in 2025. The budget also includes \$412.2 million in program baseline capacity funding to reflect increased 2024 fixed-cost requirements over the 2-year budget comparison. Without full funding for these costs, Interior bureaus and offices must absorb these must-pay costs by cutting funding for program work or staffing.

In 2023, the Department released the findings of the DOI Law Enforcement Task Force in a comprehensive report with priority recommendations to strengthen Interior’s law enforcement workforce and programs. The work leading to this report began in 2021 when Secretary Haaland established a Law Enforcement Task Force led with representatives from the law enforcement programs across Interior. Their objective was to develop meaningful solutions to assist law

enforcement and communities in strengthening trust and collaboration while ushering the Nation into the next phase of community-focused law enforcement. The task force focused on ways to enhance the trust afforded to Department law enforcement officers; support their safety, health, and wellness; and ensure law enforcement programs continue to effectively provide for safe and equitable access to public lands and the free exercise of fundamental rights in public spaces. As part of the outreach efforts, the task force held listening sessions, invited public comment, engaged with Tribal stakeholders, and coordinated various internal and external questionnaires to ensure that a wide range of perspectives were included in the new recommendations.

The task force report includes 12 recommendations focused on the areas in which the findings suggest potential improvements in building and maintaining public trust; supporting officer mental health, wellness, and safety; and increasing law enforcement program effectiveness. Those recommendations build on Interior’s progress to

develop law enforcement policies that advance transparent and accountable policing practices. In October 2022, the Department announced new policies establishing clear guidelines on use-of-force standards, required law enforcement officers to use body-worn cameras, and restricted the use of no-knock warrants.

The updates were part of the Department's continuing implementation of President Biden's May 2022 [Executive Order 14074](#) on Advancing Effective, Accountable Policing and Criminal Justice Practices to Enhance Public Trust and Public Safety.

Interior employs nearly 3,000 permanent law enforcement officers assigned to six distinct organizational units within BIA, BLM, NPS, and FWS. In addition, Reclamation employs a Security Response Force to protect its critical infrastructure. DOI's law enforcement contingent is the fourth largest among Executive Branch Departments and provides a range of duties that often extend beyond those of many traditional uniformed law enforcement officers in this country. The 2025 budget includes \$1.2 billion for law enforcement programs across Interior, \$122.5 million above the 2024 CR level. The budget features \$1.8 million across Interior to address a key Task Force recommendation: to improve mental health support within bureau law enforcement programs. The requested funding supports three mental health and wellness coordinators in NPS, two in FWS; and one each in BLM, BIA, and at the Department level.

Another key operational priority for Interior is infrastructure. Interior manages a real property portfolio valued at more than \$400 billion, consisting of more than 130,000 buildings and structures, 65,000 miles of public roads, and a wide variety of other constructed assets. Those facilities serve millions of visitors each year, provide schooling for tens of thousands of Native American children, and are places of work for more than 68,000 DOI employees. Many of Interior's infrastructure assets are priceless for their historical significance. As the steward of those assets, DOI is committed to sustaining and making the lifecycle investments in facilities that are critical to its mission.

## Investing in Mission-Essential Facilities

USGS operates nearly 500 laboratories across the United States, which are critical to carrying out the USGS mission. In 2025, the budget includes an additional \$1.7 million to invest in an integrated laboratory support, training, and oversight program to strengthen USGS laboratory quality, integrity, safety, and strategic investments. This funding will address multiple areas requiring attention, implementing training, safety, biorisk management, and animal welfare standards and controls across the labs for the benefit of people and the environment. This increase will help to ensure USGS can continue to provide the highest quality laboratory science to meet its mission.

In addition, USGS proposes to invest \$66.0 million to modernize and improve the operational effectiveness of biosafety level (BSL) 3 Labs at the National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC). The NWHC is the only Federal BSL3 facility dedicated exclusively to scientific investigation and research on wildlife diseases that threaten human, animal, and environmental health. USGS will modernize the NWHC through the construction of replacement facilities to include state-of-the-art BSL3 laboratories that support research and surveillance on economically and ecologically harmful wildlife diseases.

Collectively, Interior is working to address increasing deferred maintenance across the breadth of the Department's asset portfolio. Interior's lifecycle management approach recognizes that deferred maintenance and repairs make those requirements more expensive as assets continue to deteriorate, and the Department must balance investments to ensure mission requirements are met. Beginning in 2023, Interior started using the more comprehensive Federal Real Property Profile data to report on estimating deferred maintenance because the information historically referenced from Interior's Agency Financial Report represented a subset of assets for which the Department had a financial liability. The Federal Real Property Profile includes all real property categories except those identified as excess assets.

The Department continues its evolution toward a lifecycle investment approach to help slow the growth of deferred maintenance and sustain assets in the long term. This approach includes focusing efforts on preventive and recurring maintenance and selectively targeting assets for modernization

and renewal investments. The 2025 budget includes more than \$2.7 billion for lifecycle management of real property, a decrease of \$185.8 million from the 2024 CR level.

NPS manages 429 individual units covering more than 85 million acres in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories. The NPS Facility Operations and Maintenance program maintains, protects, restores, and rehabilitates natural and cultural resources, visitor and employee facilities, and other infrastructure across the park system. The Cyclic Maintenance program is a central element of NPS efforts to curtail the growth of deferred maintenance and promote asset lifecycle management. The budget includes an additional \$5.0 million, for a total of \$193.2 million, for routine cyclic maintenance projects, which are periodic in nature and help ensure that NPS assets and resources can meet their intended design lives.

Interior's annual request for real property asset management funding is in addition to \$1.6 billion in permanent funding available to Interior in 2025 through the National Park and Public Lands LRF included in the GAOA. These funds are available to address the Department's deferred maintenance in

the National Park System, National Wildlife Refuge System, BLM-managed lands, and BIE schools. At the end of 2024, Interior's LRF program will have initiated 327 projects touching all 50 States; Washington, DC; Puerto Rico; Guam; the Northern Mariana Islands; Midway Atoll; and the U.S. Virgin Islands. When completed, 2021–2024 projects are estimated to address \$4.8 billion of deferred maintenance, create an average of 17,000 jobs each year, and contribute an average of \$1.9 billion each year to the overall gross domestic product. The 2025 budget proposes to allocate another \$1.6 billion in GAOA project funds; the projected list of 2025 projects is provided in the appendixes.

Executing Interior's diverse mission requires a large motor vehicle fleet. The Department's motor vehicle fleet of more than 30,000 units includes approximately 12,000 alternative fueled vehicles (AFVs), including zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs). The nature of DOI's mission requires a motor vehicle fleet capable of handling rugged terrain to transport Interior employees and volunteers to and from remote locations to support multiple mission activities. In addition, DOI's mission-critical vehicles are used to support and transport staff, scientific and mission-related equipment, law



Zion National Park electric bus.

NPS Photo.

enforcement, emergency response (fire equipment and ambulances), maintenance (special purpose), and collections of scientific data.

The Department continues to support the Administration's goals to transition the Federal motor vehicle fleet to clean and zero-emission vehicles. The 2025 budget includes \$13.0 million across bureaus to support the Department's transition of light-duty fleet acquisitions to ZEVs. This funding will be used to conduct fleet planning (including ZEV integration), electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) site evaluations, EVSE installation, and ZEV acquisition. The funding will also support Interior's efforts to right-size its fleet to ensure the Department has efficient, mission-capable vehicles at the right locations and with the right vehicle mix to deliver Interior's missions. Fleet planning will ensure ZEVs are integrated into the overall fleet plan, prioritizing locations and appropriate missions for deployment of those vehicles. In addition, this funding will assist Interior with adapting EVSE planning and deployment to address evolving installation requirements, such as building and fire codes, which vary by geographic region.

### ***Fostering Continuous Improvement***

The Department of the Interior works to find better ways to accomplish important mission objectives and incorporate continuous improvement and evaluation as a part of standard operations. For example, the 2025 budget proposes language that will make it easier for Interior's bureaus and offices to work collaboratively and execute agreements to achieve operating efficiencies and better accomplish results. The concept draws from existing Service First Authority for collaborations between Interior and USDA, primarily the USFS. DOI has many examples of programmatic collaboration across the agency: wildland fire management, ecosystem restoration, invasive species management, field communications, and information management coordination. Bureaus and offices across Interior are increasingly collaborating to achieve efficiencies through colocation and shared service arrangements and through less formal agreements, such as the temporary loan of a piece of equipment or staff expertise.

## **Nature-Based Solutions**

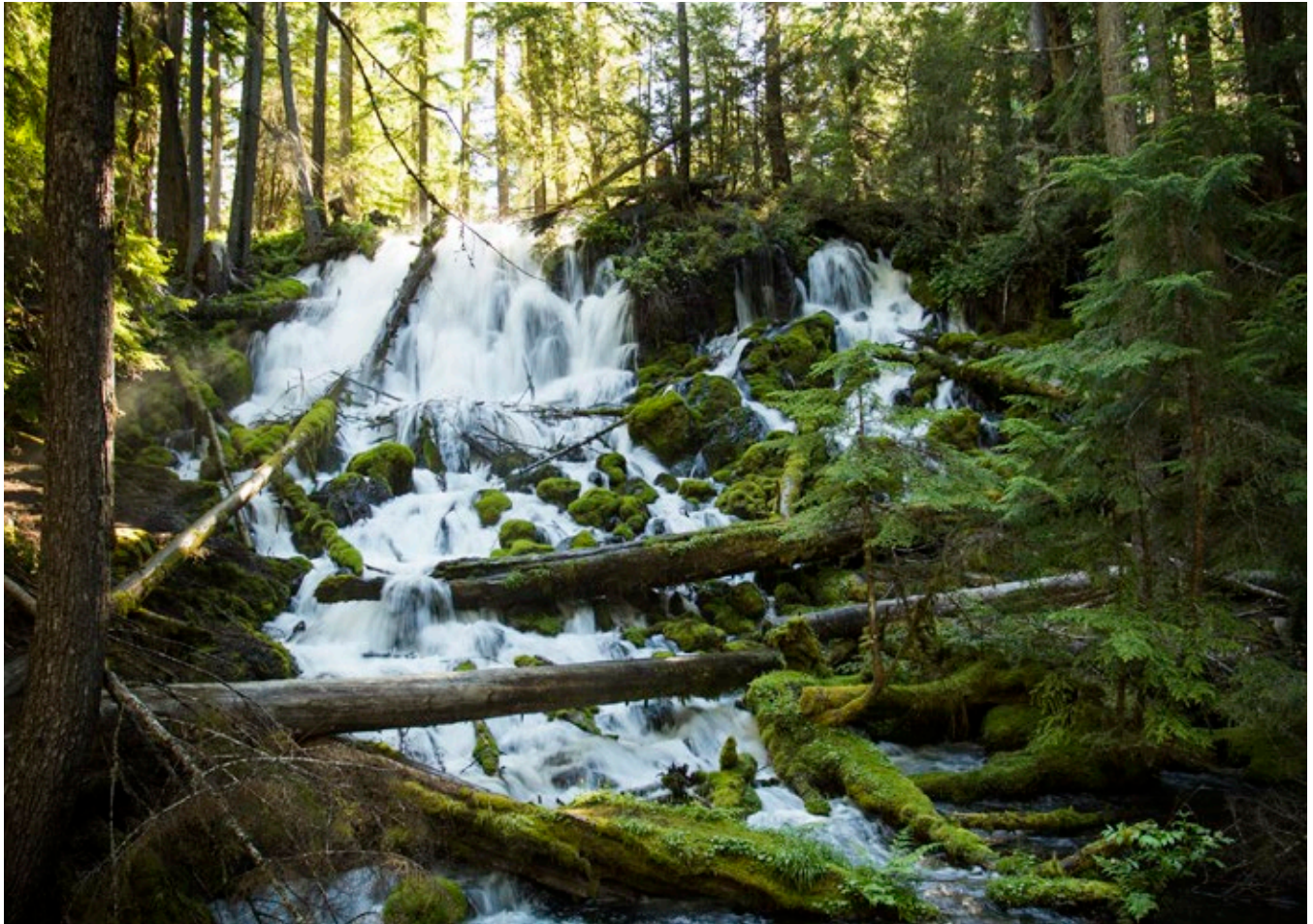
The Department of the Interior is implementing new steps to use nature-based solutions (NBS) in its efforts to tackle the climate crisis, including the launch of a new tool to make those strategies more accessible to the public. NBS use or mimic natural features or processes to improve biodiversity, strengthen resilience for disaster and hazard-risk management, support climate adaptation, and address carbon management to offset greenhouse gas emissions while also benefiting people and nature. NBS can include green infrastructure, natural infrastructure, and natural climate solutions.

In partnership with Duke University's Nicholas Institute for Energy, Environment & Sustainability, the Department released its [Nature-based Solutions Roadmap](#), an online resource that will provide the Department—and the public—guidance on the implementation of NBS. The roadmap includes implementation strategies, project-planning resources, and examples of successful projects throughout the United States.

The Department is also implementing a new policy that will strengthen the Department's ability to meet its mission in the face of a changing climate by prioritizing NBS across bureaus and offices. The policy provides land managers and decision makers with guidance on using nature-based climate solutions and will center on collaborative partnerships, equity, environmental justice, and the use of the best available evidence. FWS has two dedicated resource NBS experts in place, who have already demonstrated success in implementing these strategies. The 2025 budget includes a \$1.0 million increase to establish resource NBS experts within BLM, NPS, and BIA to help implement this policy.

The Department is prioritizing high-return, nature-based investments that connect lands and waters, promote cross-bureau collaboration, and leverage partnerships. By implementing these innovative strategies, the Department aims to ensure climate security, improve equity and address environmental justice, incorporate Indigenous knowledge into decision making, and apply evidence-based scientific approaches to predict, monitor, and assess implementation effectiveness.

Interior continues to implement key Administration management initiatives, which also focus on working better and smarter on behalf of taxpayers. Key to this venture are evidence-building activities and the use of evaluation results to inform decisions on program operations, policy, and regulations. Interior is building program evaluation capacity within the bureaus to improve the Department's



Clearwater Falls in the Umpqua National Forest, Oregon.

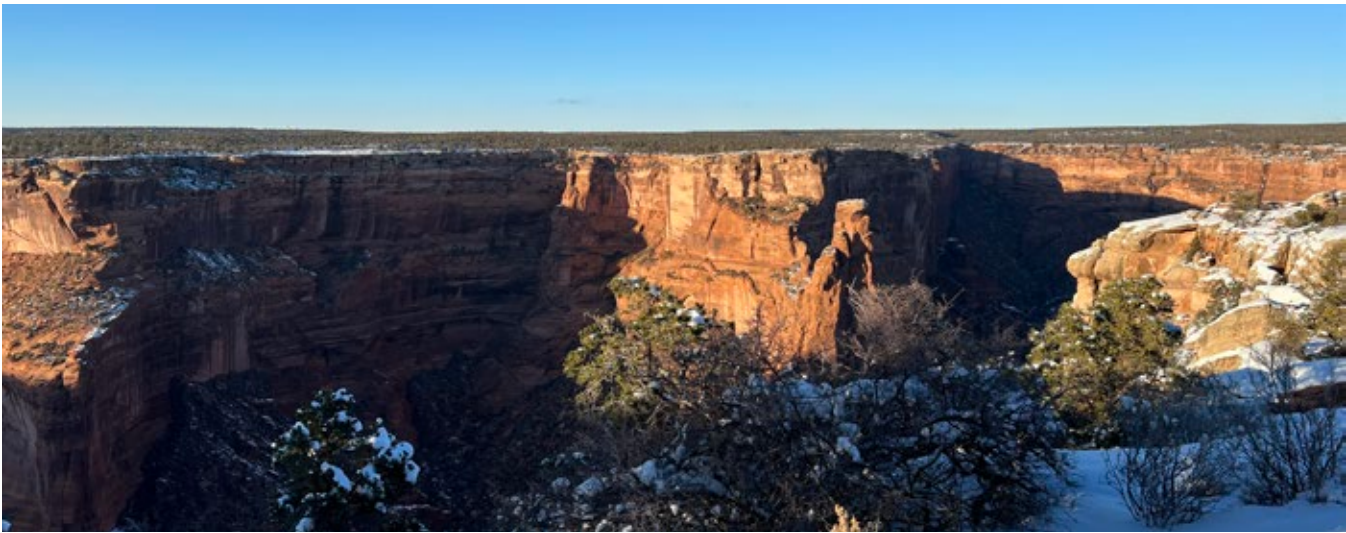
FWS Photo.

implementation of the Foundations for Evidence-based Policymaking Act of 2018. Evaluations use systematic data collection and analysis to address questions about the implementation of a program, program policy, or organizational factors surrounding a program and for organizational learning and improvement. The Department's Annual Evaluation Plan contains summary information on significant planned evaluations.

The Department is working to develop the capacity to support program evaluations and building the knowledge, skills, and abilities to conduct those activities at the Department, bureau, office, and field levels. A key success factor to improving DOI's evaluation culture is developing evaluation expertise and capacity within the evidence and evaluation community among bureaus and offices. In addition to bureau funding that supports specific bureau evaluations, the 2025 budget includes \$4.5 million in the Appropriated Working Capital Fund account to support evidence and evaluation work across the Department.

Interior is also part of the Administration's efforts to improve customer service across the Federal Government by targeting improvements in specific agency public services. The objective is to improve customer service by better understanding our customers, reducing administrative hurdles and paperwork burdens to minimize "time taxes," enhancing transparency, creating greater efficiencies across Interior, and redesigning compliance-oriented processes to improve the customer experience and more directly meet the needs of the people of the United States. The 2025 budget supports the implementation of action plans targeting the following four programs within Interior identified as High-Impact Service Providers (HISPs), including a dedicated analyst to coordinate central customer experience efforts and implementation across the Department.

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—Expand secure online payment functionality for fees, passes, permits, and reservations provided through the National Wildlife Refuge System.



Canyon de Chelly National Monument, AZ.

DOI Photo.

- National Park Service—Design and implement process and operational improvements on Volunteer.gov services and the NPS Mobile App to advance the NPS digital experience.
- Bureau of Indian Affairs—Identify and implement customer experience improvements in BIA’s Probate program.
- Bureau of Trust Funds Administration—Improve service delivery by reducing administrative hurdles, enhance transparency, and create efficiencies to better meet the needs of the trust beneficiaries.

### ***Investing in Technology and Information Management***

The 2025 budget includes \$57.8 million, \$3.5 million above the 2024 CR level, for the operation and maintenance of the Financial and Business Management System (FBMS), which supports the Department’s core financial and business management requirements. The request provides for the ongoing operations and maintenance of the Department’s integrated FBMS system of record, mandatory technology upgrades, improved end-user training, and implementation of zero trust architecture to strengthen FBMS IT security. Modernizing Interior’s core business system helps to ensure a strong administrative backbone and is critical to the continued execution of Interior’s mission activities.

Cybersecurity remains a top priority for the Department. Malicious actors continue to present

risks to Federal systems and the Nation’s critical infrastructure. Interior continues to work to support a consistent level of assurance and risk reduction for the Department at the enterprise level. This effort will provide a solid foundation for an operationally focused enterprise cybersecurity architecture that is resilient and scalable and will allow the Department to respond rapidly to sophisticated and advanced threats.

The 2025 budget includes \$67.8 million for departmentwide cybersecurity, \$23.5 million above the 2024 CR level. This investment funds high-priority recurring operations and maintenance costs for incident remediation, provides resources to fight emerging threats, and supports the development of an enterprise cybersecurity architecture. The increase in the 2025 budget enables foundational enterprise capability to implement zero trust principles, which require all devices and users—regardless of whether they are inside or outside an organization’s network—to be authenticated, authorized, and regularly validated before being granted access. Within the increase is \$5.0 million to implement a secure access service edge (SASE) solution to secure access points to meet the required zero trust security and performance standards.

The 2025 budget proposes appropriations language to establish a nonrecurring expenses fund (NEF), which will allow the Department to transfer unobligated balances of expired discretionary funds from 2025 and subsequent years—no later than the fifth fiscal year after the last fiscal year of availability—to the NEF as no-year funds to



support specific purposes. The NEF will provide funding for critical infrastructure projects that may require significant one-time investments, such as IT modernization projects. Those requirements often do not coincide with the timing of the budget formulation process and are difficult to forecast. In many cases, those costs either cannot be accommodated within existing funds or are emergency requirements that would otherwise require the Department to reprogram existing funds from other priority projects.

The Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) ensures revenue from Federal and Indian mineral leases is effectively, efficiently, and accurately collected, accounted for, analyzed, audited, and disbursed in a timely fashion to recipients. Revenue distributions, which totaled \$18.2 billion in 2023, benefit States, Tribes, individual Indian

mineral royalty owners, and U.S. Treasury accounts. ONRR is committed to efficiently and effectively implementing its modernized systems in the coming years. The office has made significant progress in implementing its Information Technology Modernization program and has determined the annual funding level can be reduced by \$10.0 million beginning in 2025 without significantly affecting the implementation schedule. The 2025 budget also includes an increase of \$4.1 million for the Department to support BIA's proposed final rule, which will transition minerals revenue management functions for the Osage Tribe to ONRR. ONRR's assumption of the full oil and gas revenue and production reporting and verification program on Osage lands will represent a significant increase in ONRR's workload across its mission activities.



Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge.

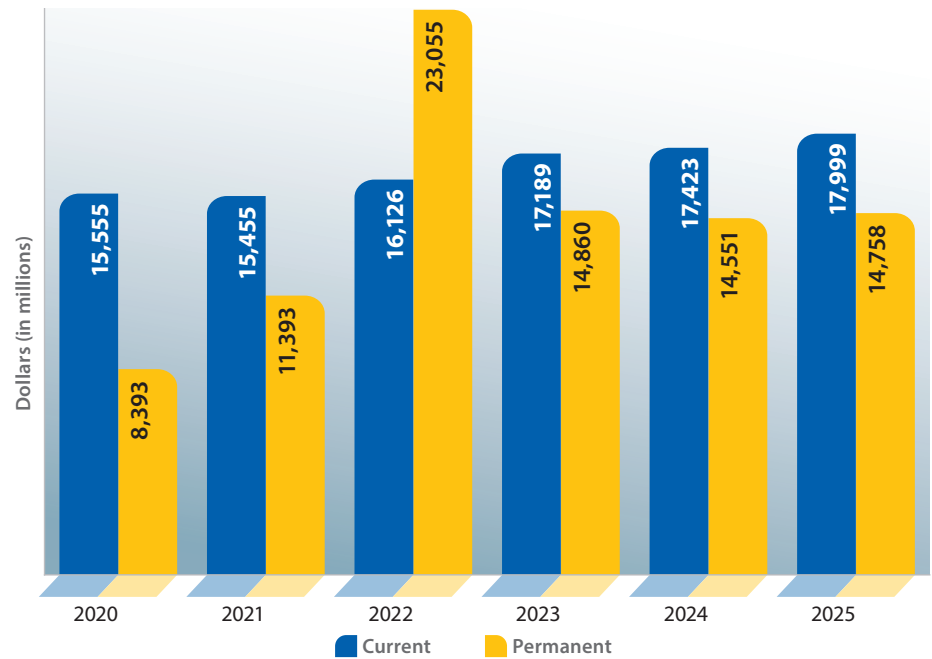
FWS Photo.



## The Numbers

The Department's 2025 budget request totals \$18.0 billion in current authority. Of that amount, \$16.4 billion is requested for programs funded by the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. The 2025 request for the Bureau of Reclamation and Central Utah Project Completion Act, funded in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, is \$1.6 billion in current appropriations. In 2025, Interior will generate receipts of \$22.3 billion.

### Department of the Interior Funding



## Budget Authority and Receipts

(dollar amounts in millions)

	2023 Actual	2024 CR	2025 Request	Change
<b>BUDGET AUTHORITY</b>				
Total Current Appropriations (w/ shifted base, w/o other supplementals and cap adjustment) .....	17,189	17,423	17,999	+576
Permanent Appropriations (w/o legislative proposals) .....	14,860	14,551	14,758	+207
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>32,049</b>	<b>31,974</b>	<b>32,757</b>	<b>+783</b>
[Net discretionary BA] .....	[17,027]	[17,271]	[17,839]	[+568]
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
Outer Continental Shelf .....	6,980	8,513	7,877	-636
Onshore Mineral Leasing .....	8,840	7,812	7,749	-63
Other Offsetting Receipts .....	4,607	4,624	4,772	+148
Other Receipts .....	1,821	1,936	1,908	-28
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>22,248</b>	<b>22,885</b>	<b>22,306</b>	<b>-579</b>

## 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; more than 700 million acres of subsurface minerals; and more than 760 million acres of submerged land in five national monuments. The Department also has jurisdiction over nearly 3.2 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf.

**Parks, Refuges, and Public Lands**—Interior manages 429 units of the national park system, 570 national wildlife refuges, 71 fish hatcheries, and one historic fish hatchery, as well as 25 national conservation areas and similarly designated areas, and 30 national monuments in BLM's national conservation lands.

**People**—DOI has more than 68,000 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 165,000 volunteers who provide more than 5.5 million hours of service, valued at an estimated \$175 million per year.

**Conservation**—The Department provided nearly \$4.9 billion for the reclamation of high-priority abandoned coal mine sites through OSMRE's Abandoned Mine Lands program. FWS protects 2,367 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 2024 are \$22.9 billion.

**Water**—The Department is the largest supplier and manager of water in the 17 Western States. Reclamation manages 490 dams and 294 reservoirs that deliver water to more than 31 million people and one out of every five Western farmers, irrigating 10 million acres of farmland.

**Energy**—Interior manages lands, subsurface rights, and offshore areas that produce approximately 18 percent of the Nation's energy, including 14 percent of natural gas, 27 percent of oil, and 43 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, one percent of wind power, 66 percent of geothermal energy, and 8 percent of solar energy.

**Visitation**—Annually, more than 565 million visits are made to BLM public lands, national park units, national wildlife refuges and fish hatcheries, and 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. BIE provides education services to 40,000 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 101 BIA-funded corrections programs and 191 bureau and Tribal law enforcement programs.

## Department of the Interior Facts *(continued)*

**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 these lands, Interior manages more than 127,000 leases for uses such as farming, grazing, and oil and gas production on behalf of individual Indians and Tribes. BTFA manages approximately \$8.8 billion of trust funds held in about 4,200 Tribal accounts and about 411,000 open 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 11,800 streamgages and more than 3,900 earthquake sensors. Interior is also responsible for operating three Earth observation satellites: the Landsat 7, 8, and 9 missions. USGS has provided Landsat data products from its archives at no cost since 2008. In 2023, USGS distributed more than 135 million remotely sensed data products with more than 20 billion data deliveries via the commercial cloud.



Secretary Haaland (fourth from left) visits the Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site in Virginia in February 2024.

DOI Photo.

