



U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Senate Passes FY 2006 Interior Appropriations Bill

WASHINGTON – The Senate and House Interior Appropriations bill conferees agreed today to approve a \$26.3 billion fiscal year 2006 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. The legislation included \$1.5 billion in funding to meet shortfalls for fiscal year 2005 Department of Veterans Affairs funding. The bill also makes appropriations for the Department of the Interior (except the Bureau of Reclamation), the Forest Service, the Indian Health Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, and related agencies for the period of October 1, 2005, through September 30, 2006. The conference agreement will be voted on by both the House and Senate this week for final approval before being sent to the President.

GRAND TOTALS

FY 05 Enacted:	\$27.0 billion
FY 06 Budget Request:	\$25.7 billion
FY 06 Bill:	\$26.3 billion

WILDLAND FIRE ACTIVITIES

The bill provides a total of \$2.513 billion for **wildland fire management activities**, including \$766.6 million for the **Bureau of Land Management** and \$1.746 billion for the **Forest Service**. The total includes \$497.2 million for **hazardous fuels reduction**, an increase of \$33.3 million over the enacted level. Additionally, the Committee has provided \$10 million for **Rural Fire Assistance**, \$66.68 million for **State Fire Assistance** and \$13.9 million for **Volunteer Fire Assistance**.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

\$114.6 million for **Federal land acquisition**, \$57.3 million for **Forest Legacy**, and \$30 million for **State Assistance** is provided under the **Land and Water Conservation Fund**.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR - \$9.88 billion

\$ 1.78 billion for the **Bureau of Land Management** (\$28.6 million below the FY 05 level)

- \$766.6 million for the Department of Interior **firefighting activity**, including \$211.2 million for **Hazardous Fuels Reduction**, \$9.8 million over the enacted level.
- \$109.8 million for **Energy and Minerals Development**, \$3.1 million over the enacted level.

\$2.3 billion for the **National Park Service**

- Provides \$1.74 billion for operation of the **national park system**, an increase of \$61 million over the FY 05 level. The amount includes \$20 million over the budget request for increases to individual park base budgets, and a total of \$595 million for **park maintenance activities**.
- \$73.25 million from the **Historic Preservation Fund**, including \$40.25 million for **preservation grants to states and tribes**, \$30 million for **Save America's Treasures** and \$5 million for **Preserve America**.

\$1.3 billion for the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** (\$22.9 million over the FY05 level [excluding emergencies])

- Provides \$265.4 million for **Endangered Species Act** activities, including \$75 million for **Recovery**, \$82.2 million for **Section 6 grants**, \$24 million for **Land Owner Incentive Program** and \$7.4 million for **Private Stewardship Grants**.
- **State Wildlife Grants** receive \$68.5 million.

\$963.1 million for the **U.S. Geological Survey** (\$27.6 million above the FY05 level [excluding emergencies])

\$159.5 million for the **Minerals Management Service** (\$14.3 million below the FY05 level)

\$110.5 million for the **Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation Enforcement** (\$2.2 million above the FY05 enacted level)

\$2.3 billion for the **Bureau of Indian Affairs** (\$12.5 million above the FY05 level and \$120.7 million over the budget request)

- Funds **Tribally Controlled Community Colleges** at a total of \$56.4 million (\$13 million over the request level)
- Restores cuts of \$6.4 million to **Welfare Assistance** and \$8.8 million to **Johnson-O'Malley Education Grants**
- Funds **Law Enforcement** at \$193.9 million (\$16.2 million over the enacted level)
- Funds **Replacement School Construction** at \$65.5 million (\$22 million over the request level), **Education Facilities Improvement and Repair** at \$142.4 million (\$14 million over the request), and creates a \$7.5 million program to **repair and rehabilitate existing Indian irrigation systems**.

Funds **Office of the Special Trustee** at \$226.1 million, including \$34.5 million to reduce the fractionation of Indian lands. Provides \$58 million for **historical accounting activities**.

Funds **PILT** at \$236 million (\$36 million over the request and \$9.2 million over the FY05 level).

Provides \$10 million matching funds for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE - \$4.265 billion

Provides \$57.3 million for **forest legacy conservation easements**.

Provides \$4.3 million above the request for **environmental review, monitoring, and processing of grazing permits**.

Provides \$1.78 billion for **fire activities**, including:

- \$286 million for **Hazardous Fuels Reduction**
- \$51.6 million increase above the enacted level for **wildfire suppression**

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE - \$3.1 billion:

Amount provided is an increase of \$83.3 million over the FY05 enacted level, including:

- \$118.1 million increase **Clinical Services**
- \$26.7 million increase for **Contract Health Care**
- \$17.0 million increase over the request for **facilities construction**

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY - \$7.9 billion

- \$741.7 million for the **Science and Technology** account (\$2.3 million below the FY05 level and \$18.9 million below the budget request)
- \$2.4 billion for the **Environmental Programs and Management** account (\$86 million above the FY05 level and \$28 million above the budget request)
- \$1.26 billion for the **Superfund** account (\$13.1 million above the FY05 enacted level and \$18.7 million below the budget request). The amount provided includes \$849.7 million for **Superfund clean-up** activities, matching the request.
- \$3.1 billion for the **State and Tribal Assistance Grants** account (\$393.6 million below the FY05 enacted level and \$220.8 million above the budget request)
 - \$900 million for the **Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund** (\$170 million over request)
 - \$850 million for the **Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund**
- \$165 million for **Brownfields** programs

OTHER RELATED AGENCIES:

- \$624.1 million for the **Smithsonian Institution** (\$10.2 million over the FY05 enacted level and the budget request)
- \$112.8 million for the **National Gallery of Art** (\$9 million over the FY 05 enacted level)
- \$31 million for the **John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts** (\$3.2 million below the FY05 enacted level)
- \$126.3 million for the **National Endowment for the Arts** (\$5 million over the FY05 enacted level)
- \$143.1 million for the **National Endowment for the Humanities** (\$5 million over the FY05 enacted level)

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

The bill includes \$1.5 billion to make up for the FY05 funding shortfall for the Department of Veterans Affairs. This funding is not designated emergency spending.