

Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2017 Omnibus Agreement Summary

Highlights of the FY2017 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill:

The \$32.28 billion measure promotes responsible resource development on public lands while funding important environmental programs. It provides funding for the Interior Department, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Forest Service (*U.S. Department of Agriculture*), Indian Health Service (*Department of Health and Human Services*), and numerous agencies and programs regarding the management of public lands, including national parks and forests.

Department of the Interior – \$12.251 billion overall for the Department of the Interior.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) – \$1.25 billion for BLM, an increase of \$15 million above the enacted level. Within this funding, increases are provided for on-the-ground sage grouse habitat improvement activities, improved rangeland and multiple-use management, and responsible natural resource development activities.

National Park Service (NPS) – \$2.91 billion for the NPS, an increase of \$60 million above the enacted level. This includes important increases for construction backlog, maintenance, and new park units established under the National Defense Authorization Act of 2015. The bill provides \$77 million for programs that are part of the Centennial Initiative, and \$13.5 million for competitive grants to preserve the sites and stories of the Civil Rights Movement.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) – \$1.52 billion for FWS, \$11 million above the FY2016 enacted level. Important program increases include funding for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). The bill also provides funding to maintain continued operation of fish hatcheries. The bill continues the prohibition on listing the sage-grouse as an endangered species.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) – \$1.08 billion for the USGS, a \$23 million increase over the enacted level. Within this amount, important program increases have been included for mapping, natural hazards, water resources (including the groundwater network), streamgages, and funds for Landsat 9.

U.S. Forest Service (USFS) – \$5.59 billion to the USFS. Important increases are included for hazardous fuels reduction, infrastructure to facilitate recreation and economic activity, and improvements to the health of our national forests.

Wildland Fire – \$4.183 billion for wildland fire management. This represents fire suppression funded at 100 percent of the 10-year average need to fight wildfire. The agreement also includes \$407 million in emergency funds, which will be available in the event of a catastrophic fire season, and \$570 million for hazardous fuels reduction activities.

Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) – Fully funds the PILT program at \$465 million. PILT provides funds for local governments to help offset losses in property taxes due to nontaxable federal lands within their counties. Without congressional action, many rural communities could face huge budget shortfalls impacting public safety, education, and other local government responsibilities.

Indian Health Service (IHS) – \$5.039 billion for the IHS, an increase of \$232.3 million above the FY2016 enacted level. The bill includes an \$82 million increase for Contract Support Costs, representing the full amount of contract support costs owed to tribes. The bill also contains an additional \$3.6 million for the Zero Suicide prevention initiative to combat suicide in Indian country; \$4 million for Domestic Violence Prevention efforts; \$6.5 million specifically targeted for programs to combat suicide, alcohol and substance abuse among youth; and a \$22 million increase for maintenance and construction of Indian Health Facilities.

Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education (BIA/BIE) – \$2.85 billion for the BIA and BIE, an increase of \$63 million above the enacted level. Within this amount, contract support costs are fully funded and important increases for education, public safety and justice programs, and social services receive additional support.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) – The Land and Water Conservation Fund is funded at \$400 million:

- The National Park Service State Assistance Program will receive \$110 million;
- Recreational Access funding is provided across all four agencies (BLM, NPS, FWS and USFS), and will receive \$17 million;
- The Forest Legacy Program will receive \$62.347 million; and
- The American Battlefield Program will receive \$10 million.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – The bill reduces the EPA by \$81 million, providing the lowest level of funding since FY2009. The bill rejected \$127 million in increases requested by President Obama in his FY2017 budget request. While reducing EPA operating programs, the bill provides more than \$2.25 billion to the State Revolving Funds to help communities upgrade their aging water infrastructure. Additional funding is included for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) to further help improve water infrastructure. The bill also prohibits the EPA from regulating livestock emissions and certain types of ammunition and fishing tackle.

Smithsonian Institution – \$863.3 million for the Smithsonian Institution, a \$23 million increase over the enacted level.

National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities – \$149.8 million, a \$1.9 million increase over the enacted level, for each Endowment.

Kennedy Center – \$36.4 million for the Kennedy Center, equal to the FY 2016 enacted level.

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) – \$3 million for CEQ, equal to the FY2016 enacted level.

Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial – \$45 million for construction of a memorial in honor of Dwight D. Eisenhower.

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