

FY2016 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill Omnibus Agreement Summary

Highlights of the FY2016 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill:

The \$32.158 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 –\$12.016 billion overall for the Department of the Interior.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) – \$1.23 billion for BLM, an increase of \$116 million above the enacted level. Within this funding, an increase of \$45 million is devoted to sage-grouse activities and \$23 million is allocated for responsible natural resource development activities.

National Park Service (NPS) – \$2.85 billion for the NPS, an increase of \$236 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. \$135 million is provided for the Centennial Initiative.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) – \$1.51 billion for FWS, \$68.6 million above the FY2015 enacted level. Important programs 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) – \$1.06 billion for the USGS, \$17 million increase over the enacted level. Within this amount, important program increases have been included for energy and mineral resources, mapping, natural hazards, groundwater monitoring network, streamgages, and funds for Landsat 9.

U.S. Forest Service (USFS) – \$5.66 billion to the USFS, an increase of \$608 million above the enacted level. Important increases are included for hazardous fuels reduction, road maintenance and construction, and forest products production.

Wildland Fire – \$4.2 billion to for wildland fire management. This represents fire suppression funded at 100 percent of the 10-year average and includes \$593 million in additional funds available in the event of a catastrophic fire season. Any unspent funds will be carried over for use during the next fire season.

Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) – \$452 million for the PILT program. 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) – \$4.807 billion for the IHS, an increase of \$165 million above the FY2015 enacted level. The bill includes a \$55 million increase for Contract Support Costs, representing the full amount of contract support costs owed to tribes. An additional \$20 million is provided for construction to address the agency’s backlog of priority construction facilities. The bill also contains an additional \$40 million to be equally divided—\$20 million for sanitation facilities construction and \$20 million for maintenance and improvement. Finally, an increase of \$10 million is provided for combating alcohol and substance abuse in tribal communities.

Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education (BIA/BIE) – \$2.79 billion for the BIA and BIE, an increase of \$195 million above the enacted level. Within this amount, contract support costs are fully funded and important increases for public safety and justice programs receive additional support. An additional \$65 million above the enacted level has been provided for construction and facilities maintenance.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) – The Land and Water Conservation Fund is funded at \$450 million, an addition of \$144 million above the FY2015 enacted level.

- The National Park Service state side assistance program will receive \$110 million, \$61 million above the enacted level and representing the highest level of funding since 2002.
- Recreational Access funding is provided across all four agencies (BLM, NPS, FWS and USFS) and will receive \$20.5 million.
- The American Battlefield Program will receive \$10 million, a \$1 million increase over the FY2015 enacted level.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – The bill holds the EPA at the FY2015 enacted level of \$8.139 billion – rejecting \$451 million in increases requested by the President in his fiscal year 2016 budget request. By keeping the operating programs at the enacted level, the bill reduces the amounts available to the Agency because it does not account for inflation. While holding all operating program level, the bill provides more than \$2.2 billion to the State Revolving Funds to help communities upgrade water infrastructure and provides additional funding to help states deal with the Administration’s regulatory assault. The bill also continues to prohibit the EPA from regulating certain types of ammunition and fishing tackle and from regulating livestock emissions.

Smithsonian Institution – \$840.2 million for the Smithsonian Institution, a \$20.7 million increase over the FY2015 enacted level.

National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities – \$147.9 million, a \$1.9 million increase over the FY2015 enacted level, for each Endowment.

Kennedy Center – \$36.4 million for the Kennedy Center, which is \$3.6 million above the enacted level.

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) – The bill funds the CEQ at \$3 million, equal to the FY2015 enacted level.

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