



# U.S. Wildland Fire Service

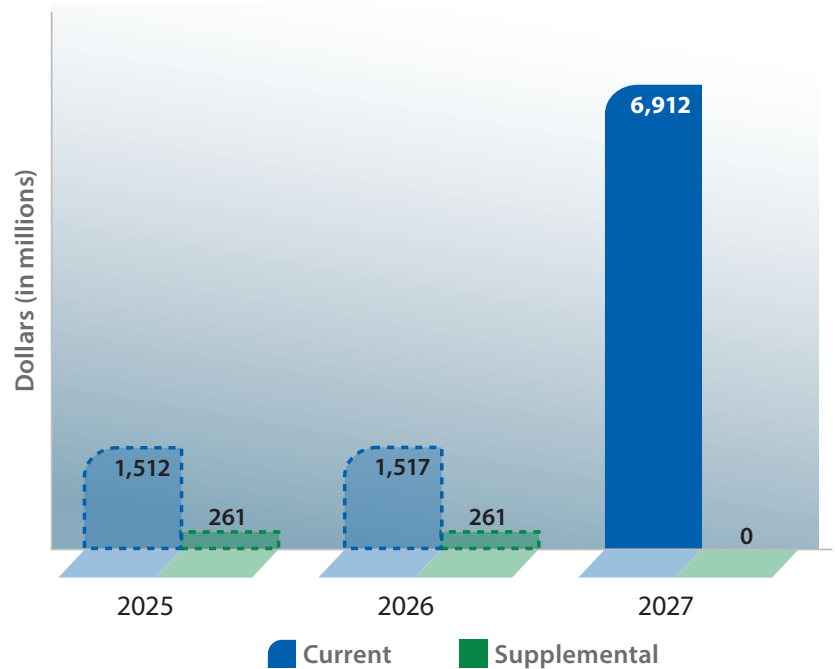
## Mission

The U.S. Wildland Fire Service (USWFS) is elevating and unifying Federal wildland fire management to strengthen coordination with partners, improve operational efficiency and effectiveness, and support a more integrated national approach to wildfire preparedness and response. In alignment with President Trump’s Executive Order (EO) 14308, *Empowering Commonsense Wildfire Prevention and Response*, and Secretary’s Orders 3443, *Elevating and Unifying DOI’s Wildland Fire Management Program*, and 3448, *Establishment of the U.S. Wildland Fire Service*, the USWFS is improving collaboration and coordination with land management bureaus, Tribal Nations, States, local communities, and private industry to ensure aggressive fuels management, effective and nimble wildfire response, and thoughtful postfire recovery. In addition, the USWFS is taking bold action to streamline procurement and payments, reduce administrative burden, and modernize and integrate wildfire-related research, technology, and intelligence.

## Budget Overview

The 2027 budget request for the proposed Wildland Fire Service Operations account is \$3.96 billion, and the request for the Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund account is \$2.95 billion, for a total of \$6.91 billion. The 2027 budget builds on EOs issued by President Trump to improve

## USWFS Funding



Note: Table displays 2025 and 2026 funding for Interior’s current Wildland Fire Management and Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund accounts.

wildland fire management and forest management, SOs issued by Secretary Burgum, and the recent unification of wildland fire resources and operations in the U.S. Department of the Interior (Interior), and the establishment of USWFS within the Office of the Secretary on January 12, 2026. The 2027 budget proposes a further strategic unification of the wildland fire programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Interior. USFS’s wildland fire resources and operations will be further consolidated into USWFS. Following this unification, USWFS will employ all Federal Wildland Fire Management (WFM) personnel working on lands administered by Interior and USFS, including wildland firefighters, wildfire risk mitigation planners, and support personnel. USWFS will continue funding Tribal Nations’ WFM personnel. The Wildland Fire Service Operations account will fund an estimated 15,827 direct and reimbursable Federal full-time equivalents (FTE) and 640 Tribal FTEs. USWFS also will procure and maintain

## U.S. WILDLAND FIRE SERVICE Facts



- On January 12, 2026, Secretary Burgum established the U.S. Wildland Fire Service (USWFS) within the Office of the Secretary to unify all wildland fire programs across Interior and be responsible for all aspects of Interior's wildland fire operations and activities.
- The FY 2027 President's Budget proposes legislation to strengthen the Federal response to wildland fire by consolidating wildland fire programs from the USDA USFS into the USWFS, unifying these functions in a single department in FY 2027.
- Following this strategic interagency unification, USWFS will manage wildland fire response and wildfire risk reduction responsibilities across more than 693 million acres administered by Interior and USFS.

all wildland fire resources and manage Federal wildland fire response policies.

### Firefighter Pay Reforms

The 2027 USWFS budget fully funds the costs of permanent pay increases for Federal and Tribal wildland firefighters across the United States and provides incident response premium pay, both of which were enacted in FY 2025. The 2027 budget also requests a permanent extension of the premium pay cap waiver for wildland fire personnel. As wildfires grow larger and more destructive—threatening communities, livelihoods, and infrastructure—wildland fire personnel face growing demands. Improved firefighter pay is helping to address this challenge by enabling the Federal Government and Tribes to better compete with private employers and to hire and retain top employees in this critical field.

### Establishing Authorities

To support the unification of USFS's and Interior's wildland fire resources and operations, the 2027 budget proposes legislation, including appropriations language, to provide additional authorities for implementation. These authorities include the transfer of budgetary resources to and from USWFS and USFS to facilitate the transition to the unified USWFS and foster collaborative land management within Interior and between the two Departments. The 2027 budget further proposes to expand hazardous fuels mitigation authorities, including the use of targeted grazing, to address significant imminent wildland fire threats. In addition, the Administration is developing proposed authorizing language to fully implement the

USWFS. The Department looks forward to working with Congress and sharing additional details to enact both authorization and appropriations for a reformed Federal approach to wildland fire management.

### Suppression Operations

The 2027 budget requests \$1.39 billion for Suppression Operations in the Wildland Fire Service Operations account to support incident management personnel; aviation and operational assets; logistical services, supplies, and equipment; and temporary emergency firefighters. In addition to suppressing wildfires that threaten lives and communities, personnel also implement emergency stabilization projects to minimize threats to life or property, protect water quality, and reduce the risks of floods, landslides, and erosion following wildfires.

### Preparedness

The 2027 budget requests \$1.57 billion for Preparedness to maintain Federal firefighting capabilities and readiness to achieve a high initial attack success rate for wildland fire response. The approach is consistent with the multiyear capacity growth plan to develop a professional, year-round workforce that can better meet the demands of contemporary wildfire challenges and management. The Preparedness program activity provides for an integrated and coordinated framework for wildfire response by funding core Federal and Tribal firefighting resources and assets to protect public health, critical infrastructure, natural and cultural resources, and communities from the detrimental effects of wildfires. Major resources supported by



Prescribed burn in Nevada.

DOI Photo.

this program activity include firefighters' labor, engines, and other heavy equipment.

### **Fuels Management**

The 2027 budget requests \$834.5 million for Fuels Management. This program activity helps mitigate the risk of catastrophic wildfires and create fire-resilient landscapes through fuels management projects on lands administered by Interior and USFS and on some non-Federal lands. USWFS and its partners manage vegetation to reduce the intensity, severity, and negative effects of wildfire.

### **Burned Area Rehabilitation**

The 2027 budget requests \$10.0 million for Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR). BAR supports efforts by USWFS and its partners to repair or improve burned landscapes that are unlikely to recover without human assistance. Working with partners from Tribal Nations, States, and local communities, USWFS carries out nonemergency actions to

rehabilitate burned areas that may take up to 5 years to complete.

### **Facilities Construction and Maintenance**

The 2027 budget requests \$27.0 million for capital investments in housing and other facilities for wildland fire personnel. This funding helps Interior construct and maintain safe, modern facilities that are essential to achieving the USWFS mission of protecting lives, property, and resources from wildfires. The 2027 budget will allow USWFS to advance its efforts to repair, renovate, modernize, and construct housing and other facilities, such as aerial firefighting support bases, that are necessary for efficient and effective operation of the program.

### **Intelligence and Technology**

The 2027 budget's new Intelligence and Technology program activity supports unified wildland fire information technology (IT), research, and science, including the Joint Fire Science Program that is currently coadministered by the two Departments.

The budget requests \$123.5 million for Intelligence and Technology, including \$20.0 million to establish a new Wildland Fire Intelligence Center (Center). This Center will provide a centralized, interagency capability for delivering real-time wildland fire intelligence, integrating data, predictive services, and emerging technologies into operational decision making. The Center will strengthen implementation of EO 14308 by unifying fragmented IT and research efforts; enhancing interoperability; and ensuring that Federal, Tribal, State, and local partners have access to timely and actionable intelligence to support preparedness, response, and risk-informed decision making.

### **Grants and Partnerships**

The 2027 budget requests \$2.8 million for the new Grants and Partnerships program activity. The 2027 budget supports targeted rural fire assistance. The funding level reflects Interior's awareness that States and localities have a central role in funding wildfire preparedness and are best positioned to

execute this core function without unnecessary Federal constraints.

### **Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund**

In accordance with Division O of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141), which provides additional new budget authority for wildfire suppression operations through 2027, the budget funds the Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund (Reserve Fund) with \$2.95 billion. This funding, combined with the Wildland Fire Service Operations account funding for suppression, ensures adequate budget resources to respond promptly and effectively to wildfires, even during the most severe periods of wildfire activity. The 2027 budget also requests an adjustment to the current Reserve Fund authority to direct all of the funding authorized by Public Law 115-141 to USWFS.

### **Fixed Costs**

Fixed costs are fully funded.



Aircraft drops retardant on the Vee Lake Fire in Oregon.

DOI Photo.

## SUMMARY OF BUREAU APPROPRIATIONS <sup>1/</sup>

(dollar amounts in thousands)

### *Comparison of 2027 Request with 2026 Enacted*

|   | 2026 Enacted <sup>2/</sup> |                  | 2027 Request  |                  | Change         |                   |
|---|----------------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|
|   | FTE                        | Amount           | FTE           | Amount           | FTE            | Amount            |
| <b>Current</b>                                      |                            |                  |               |                  |                |                   |
| Wildland Fire Service Operations .....              | 2,504                      | 1,408,458        | 15,588        | 3,961,953        | +13,084        | +2,553,495        |
| Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund .....  | 0                          | 370,000          | 0             | 2,950,000        | 0              | +2,580,000        |
| Subtotal, Current .....                             | 2,504                      | 1,778,458        | 15,588        | 6,911,953        | +13,084        | +5,133,495        |
| <b>Reimbursable, Allocation, and Other</b>          |                            |                  |               |                  |                |                   |
| Reimbursable .....                                  | 134                        | 0                | 239           | 0                | +105           | 0                 |
| Subtotal, Reimbursable, Allocation, and Other ..... | 134                        | 0                | 239           | 0                | +105           | 0                 |
| <b>TOTAL, U.S. WILDLAND FIRE SERVICE .....</b>      | <b>2,638</b>               | <b>1,778,458</b> | <b>15,827</b> | <b>6,911,953</b> | <b>+13,189</b> | <b>+5,133,495</b> |

<sup>1/</sup> Current funding amounts include supplemental appropriations and transfers. For further details, see Highlights of Budget Changes tables for each account.

<sup>2/</sup> The 2026 amount shows funding for Interior's current Wildland Fire Management and Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund accounts. Funding for the Wildland Fire Management account includes repurposed appropriations provided in the Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2026 (P.L. 119-74).

## HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET CHANGES

By Appropriation Activity/Subactivity  
(dollar amounts in thousands)

### APPROPRIATION: Wildland Fire Service Operations

|   | 2025 Actual <sup>1/</sup> | 2026 Enacted <sup>2/</sup> | 2027 Request     | Change            |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Preparedness .....  | 512,364                   | 526,064                    | 1,569,533        | +1,043,469        |
| Suppression Operations .....                                  | 383,657                   | 383,657                    | 1,394,657        | +1,011,000        |
| Fuels Management .....  | 228,150                   | 214,450                    | 834,463          | +620,013          |
| <b>Other Operations</b>                                       |                           |                            |                  |                   |
| Burned Area Rehabilitation .....                              | 10,000                    | 10,000                     | 10,000           | 0                 |
| Facilities Construction and Maintenance .....                 | 10,000                    | 10,000                     | 27,000           | +17,000           |
| Intelligence and Technology .....                             | 3,000                     | 3,000                      | 123,500          | +120,500          |
| Grants and Partnerships .....                                 | 0                         | 0                          | 2,800            | +2,800            |
| Subtotal, Other Operations .....                              | 23,000                    | 23,000                     | 163,300          | +140,300          |
| <b>SUBTOTAL APPROPRIATION .....</b>                           | <b>1,147,171</b>          | <b>1,147,171</b>           | <b>3,961,953</b> | <b>+2,814,782</b> |
| Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act<br>(P.L. 117-58) ..... | 262,600                   | 262,600                    | 0                | -262,600          |
| Transfer to OIG (P.L. 117-58) .....                           | -1,313                    | -1,313                     | 0                | +1,313            |
| Net Other Transfers .....                                     | 5,659                     | 0                          | 0                | 0                 |
| <b>TOTAL APPROPRIATION .....</b>                              | <b>1,414,117</b>          | <b>1,408,458</b>           | <b>3,961,953</b> | <b>+2,553,495</b> |

<sup>1/</sup> The 2025 amount shows funding for Interior's current Wildland Fire Management account.

<sup>2/</sup> The 2026 amount shows funding for Interior's current Wildland Fire Management account and includes repurposed appropriations provided in the Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2026 (P.L. 119-74).

**APPROPRIATION: Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund**

|                           | 2025 Actual <sup>1/</sup> | 2026 Enacted <sup>1/</sup> | 2027 Request | Change     |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|------------|
| TOTAL APPROPRIATION ..... | 360,000                   | 370,000                    | 2,950,000    | +2,580,000 |

<sup>1/</sup> The 2025 and 2026 amounts show funding for Interior's current Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund account.