



Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative

Under my leadership at Interior, we will always take the long view. And we will always, always keep in mind that public lands are a trust, one that we manage for generations to come.

*Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
October 10, 2013*

The President's budget adheres to the funding levels for 2015 provided in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013. The levels in the Budget Agreement are not sufficient to expand opportunity or drive the growth that the economy needs, particularly in light of the economic downturn.

For that reason, the President's 2015 budget includes a separate, fully paid for \$56.0 billion Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative. This Initiative shows how additional investments in 2015 can spur economic progress, promote opportunity, and strengthen national security. The Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative is fully paid for with a balanced package of spending cuts and tax loophole closers, showing that additional pro-growth investments are affordable without increasing the deficit through common sense spending and tax reforms.

The Initiative includes several Interior programs for additional investment totaling \$346.0 million in 2015. If approved, these investments will enable significant progress to address long-term needs in the national parks and other public lands, research and development, infrastructure and permitting support, climate resiliency, and education and economic development in Indian Country. These proposed investments complement funding requested as current authority in the 2015 budget request, and in some cases, separate legislative proposals.

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE

The Centennial initiative includes funding from three sources to bolster the national parks and other public lands facilities on the occasion of the 100th

anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016. In addition to the funding described here, separate legislation is proposed to provide \$400.0 million a year for three years in permanent funding and the 2015 current budget request for NPS includes a \$40.0 million increase. The permanent and 2015 budget proposals will support similar activities discussed below, as well as support a NPS Centennial Challenge fund to leverage private participation to protect and restore important NPS resources. A comprehensive funding table for the Centennial initiative is included in the section describing America's Great Outdoors.

Funding for the Centennial initiative in the President's Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative has two pieces. The first addresses NPS infrastructure, while the second expands the concept to address conservation and infrastructure needs to all of Interior's public lands management bureaus and the U.S. Forest Service.

- **National Park Service Centennial** – This \$100.0 million investment, with \$30.0 million in current funding and \$200.0 million for three years in a permanent legislative proposal, meets specific outcome goals in reducing the deferred maintenance backlog in NPS facilities. The full NPS Centennial initiative will ensure 1,700 or 20 percent of priority park assets are restored to good condition. Like the Works Progress Administration, this 21st century effort will create thousands of jobs for youth, veterans, and others on public works projects to upgrade and restore national parks. The full Centennial initiative will create more than 10,000 work and train-

ing opportunities for young people, and engage more than 265,000 volunteers in support of public lands.

- **Centennial Land Management Investment Fund** – This \$100.0 million investment, along with \$100.0 million for three years included as part of a permanent legislative proposal, will provide a competitive opportunity for land management bureaus within Interior and the Department of Agriculture’s U.S. Forest Service to address conservation and infrastructure project needs. Interior’s Office of the Secretary, in concert with the Department of Agriculture, will competitively award funding for projects that restore lands, repair facilities, increase water and energy efficiency, and improve recreational opportunities. Projects will be selected based on a set of criteria that prioritize the mission-critical nature of the work, the expected results, and job creation.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The President’s Initiative includes \$140.0 million for science research and development, reflecting the President’s ongoing commitment to strengthen America’s competitiveness through scientific discovery and innovation. Investments in scientific monitoring, research, and development are critical to providing a sound scientific basis for balancing trade-offs and making decisions in managing natural resources. Research and development carried out by the U.S. Geological Survey and other bureaus provides information and tools to enable sustainable stewardship of the Nation’s resources in support of Interior’s missions.

This Initiative will significantly advance Interior’s capacity to use science to inform decisionmaking in five priority areas: 1) energy and mineral development; 2) climate resilience; 3) landscape scale ecosystem management, restoration, and protection; 4) water resources management; and 5) species protection and health. These research and development investments will focus on outcomes, investing particularly in the development of decision-ready tools and information that managers can use in the stewardship of natural resources. This includes funding for applied research, basic research, monitoring, and tools such as geospatial and modeling applications.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE INVESTMENTS (dollars in millions)

Bureau of Land Management.....	5.0
Bureau of Reclamation	15.0
U.S. Geological Survey	75.0
National Park Service	10.0
Fish and Wildlife Service.....	20.0
Bureau of Indian Affairs.....	<u>15.0</u>
TOTAL, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.....	140.0

The Initiative invests in science to support sustainable stewardship in the following areas:

- **Energy and Mineral Development** – Investments support science to advance alternative energy development and permitting in the areas of wind, solar, and geothermal energy and to understand, minimize, and mitigate the potential impacts of energy and mineral development on environmental and human health.
- **Climate Resilience** – Investments support the development of information and tools to enable resource managers to understand the potential impacts of a changing climate and to plan and adjust their operations to be resilient in managing the public trust and ensuring sustainable stewardship of resources.
- **Landscape Scale Ecosystem Management, Restoration, and Protection** – Investments support the development of information and tools, analysis, and monitoring to manage resources and understand trade-offs on a landscape scale across land, water, and ocean systems. This includes the restoration and protection of ecological systems and important cultural landscapes and the management of trade-offs in resource development and management.
- **Water Resources Management** – Research and development investments support Federal, State, tribal, and local managers in the sustainable management of water resources, including understanding and monitoring ground and surface water use and availability, water quality, drought and climate resilience, and water needed to support healthy ecosystems and communities.

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- **Species Protection and Health** – Investments provide tools, research, and monitoring needed to protect the health and survival of animal and plant species. This includes research and development to address threatened and endangered species, invasive species, and the recovery of species impacted by ecological decline and disease.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND PERMITTING SUPPORT

An investment of \$6.0 million is proposed for Interior's Historic Preservation Fund to help expedite Federal permitting and get infrastructure projects off the ground by creating a national directory available to developers as a reference. Funding will enable the digitization of records to improve their accessibility for permitting purposes.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE FUND

President Obama announced in February 2014 a proposal to establish a Climate Resilience Fund to help communities across the Country better prepare for existing and future threats that are exacerbated by climate change. The Fund does this in three primary ways:

- *Investing in research* and unlocking data to better understand the projected impacts of climate change and how to better prepare the communities and infrastructure. For Interior, this could include developing landscape level information, geographic

information system data, models, and other tools to support resilient and adaptive land management.

- *Helping communities plan* and prepare for the impacts of climate change and encouraging local measures to reduce future risk. Interior could contribute through assistance to Tribes and local governments for planning, protecting wetlands, and improving coastal resiliency in the face of extreme weather conditions.
- *Funding breakthrough technologies and resilient infrastructure* in the face of a changing climate. Interior could help by reducing risks to public lands from droughts, fires and floods, and examining more resilient approaches to managing water resources infrastructure.

EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN INDIAN COUNTRY

The Initiative supports investments in education and economic development in Indian Country, affirming the Administration's commitment to advancing tribal self-determination and strong, resilient American Indian and Alaska Native communities. Investments in education will include incentives and improvements for schools funded through the Bureau of Indian Education to improve childhood education and educational outcomes. The Initiative also supports economic development and job growth in Indian Country, particularly for income vulnerable populations. Investments will target workforce development, economic development grants, and infrastructure development projects.