



Engaging the Next Generation

It is critical for the health of our economy and our public lands that we work to establish meaningful and deep connections between young people from every background and every community to the great outdoors.

*Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
March 10, 2014*

The future of America's public lands depends on young people becoming active stewards of the environment throughout their lives. Interior has a unique opportunity to harness the strong spirit of community service and volunteerism alive within the Nation's youth, and encourage them to use their time, energy, and talent to enjoy and conserve America's natural and cultural treasures.

The Department of the Interior plays a key role in improving the Nation's future by introducing, involving, and encouraging the next generation as stewards of culture, history, land, water, and wild-life. In this dynamic and changing Nation, more and more people are isolated from the outdoors in cities and large urban areas. Young people are increasingly drawn indoors and are becoming inactive and disconnected from nature. The Department's unique assets provide great opportunities to connect this generation to the outdoors and the Nation's natural and cultural resources, in exciting and meaningful ways.

To address the growing disconnect between young people and the outdoors, Interior developed strategies to promote public-private partnerships and collaborative efforts across all levels of government to connect young people with the land and inspire them to play, learn, serve, and work outdoors. The result will maximize opportunities for youth through visitor and educational programs, partnerships, volunteerism, and employment. These efforts can be leveraged through social media and technological enhancements to expand opportunities for travel, tourism, and life-long learning.

Secretary Jewell established a goal of raising \$20.0 million from private partners by 2017 to support employment and training opportunities for young people and veterans on public lands. In 2014, the Department partnered with several private companies and local communities to further this ambitious initiative to engage, educate, and employ young Americans. Organizations including American Eagle Outfitters, Camelbak, The Campion Foundation, Youth Outdoor Legacy Fund, Coca-Cola, and The North Face joined the Department's youth initiative. The North Face, in partnership with the group My Morning Jacket, launched a campaign where more than half of the group's proceeds from each

PRIORITY GOAL YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

GOAL: Build the next generation of conservation and community leaders by supporting youth employment at the Department of the Interior.

METRIC: By September 30, 2015, the Department of the Interior will provide 40,000 work and training opportunities over two fiscal years, 2014 through 2015, for individuals ages 15 to 25 to support the mission of the Department.

The Department is proposing to expand this goal to provide 100,000 work and training opportunities over four fiscal years, 2014 through 2017, for individuals ages 15 to 35.

download of a new rendition of Woody Guthrie's iconic song "This Land is Your Land" is donated to support the Secretary's goal to inspire young people to love the outdoors and care about their natural world, as well as protecting and conserving the places that many citizens know as playgrounds.

The Department of the Interior also teamed up with the National League of Cities and the YMCA in an effort to coordinate and create meaningful connections to nature. Under the agreement, Interior will encourage relationships to enrich NLC and YMCA programs on lands managed by its bureaus, including the Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service. For example in Los Angeles, the Department's partnership with the city will launch a mobile visitor and education center for young people who might otherwise not establish a connection with nature. The modified recreational vehicle, the River Rover, will provide educational opportunities to families and children in one of the most diverse and densely populated regions of the Country.

Youth engagement objectives continue to be a priority for Interior bureaus. In 2016, the budget proposes to fund \$107.2 million for youth programs in the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Geological Survey, Bureaus of Indian Affairs and Indian Education, and BLM, FWS, NPS, a collective \$45.5 million increase over the 2015 enacted funding levels.

The 2016 request includes a \$4.4 million increase within USGS for investments in the Youth and Education in Science program and outreach to underserved communities. The USGS has a longstanding commitment to the development and mentoring of young people in the earth and biological sciences through grant programs with universities, internships, educational outreach to teachers and students, partnerships with local governments to engage underserved youth, and postdoctoral programs. The USGS also conducts the Native Youth in Science summer camp to demonstrate how science topics learned in school relate to tribal culture and the environmental health of local lands. These developmental efforts are investments in the USGS workforce of the future and provide opportunities to introduce young people to their Earth and the field of biological science.

The budget proposes an additional \$20.0 million for NPS to develop meaningful connections between public lands and youth and their families

by expanding opportunities to visit park sites, participate in programming developed specifically for youth, and access information via social media. Of this increase, \$11.5 million will be for efforts to introduce annually at least one million fourth and fifth grade students from elementary schools serving disadvantaged students in urban areas to nearby national parks. This proposal builds on the National Park Foundation's successful Ticket to Ride program, which helps transport more than 100,000 students to national parks each year. The remaining \$8.5 million will ensure park units have programming tailored for young people and their families, especially at high visitation and urban parks. This increase will allow NPS to place a youth coordinator at 100 parks to develop materials and experiences to interest young people in the park and to engage youth once they are there.

Within BIA, the budget includes an additional \$3.0 million to support youth participation in experiences throughout the parks that focus on the protection, enhancement, and conservation of natural resources through science, education and cultural learning. Programs aimed at tribal youth will open doors to future job opportunities, instilling respect for the resources and an appreciation of their importance to tribal culture and livelihood. The request supports new tribal youth projects and training programs throughout Indian Country and supplements the existing training programs within the Forestry, Water, and Agriculture programs.

The BIE budget includes a \$4.6 million increase for scholarships for post-secondary education with a focus on recipients seeking degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields. The availability of advanced education opportunities for tribal members is a high priority for Tribes. An educated and skilled tribal member workforce is seen by Tribes as a key element of economic development. These increases are part of the Administration's launch of Generation Indigenous, focused on removing the barriers to success for Native youth by taking a comprehensive, culturally-appropriate approach to help improve the lives and opportunities for Native youth. This government-wide initiative builds on work the Department and other agencies have begun, working with Tribes to implement education reforms and address other issues facing Native youth.

Through the Urban Wildlife Conservation Program, FWS is inviting city dwellers to enjoy the outdoors by creating opportunities near urban communities.

An additional \$5.0 million is requested in the 2016 budget to extend successful partnerships in San Diego, California, and Providence, Rhode Island, to refuges across the Country. The FWS will use this increase to create additional urban community partnerships to engage youth in nature-related activities and programs. In the Seattle metropolitan area, FWS is going into classrooms to teach young people about the efforts to restore declining kokanee salmon runs in the Lake Sammamish watershed. Field trips to hatcheries focus on how both fish and people depend upon a healthy watershed to flourish, attempting to bridge the disconnect between young people and the great outdoors.

The FWS will use \$2.5 million to expand youth programs and partnerships, including the partnership with the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps, which is an important tool in reaching urban youth. The 21CSC puts young Americans to work protecting and restoring public and tribal lands and waters. In 2016, FWS will work collaboratively with 21CSC partnerships across the Country to increase access

to public lands and provide job training in natural resource conservation to America's youth.

The OSMRE budget includes an increase of \$1.0 million to expand the use of reforestation techniques in coal mine reclamation and provide opportunities for youth engagement with the outdoors. Reforestation efforts, many involving the Nation's youth, have provided an opportunity to reintroduce the American chestnut tree. The American chestnut tree was king of the forest over much of the eastern United States and an important part of cultural heritage until destroyed by Asian fungus blight in the first half of the twentieth century.

The BLM is requesting an increase of \$5.0 million for youth programs and partnerships. These efforts allow BLM to accomplish high priority projects while promoting quality participant experiences that ultimately lead to careers for young Americans. The BLM will use the increase to put more youth to work protecting cultural and historical resources and treasures, as well as restoring public lands.

ENGAGING THE NEXT GENERATION
(dollars in millions)

	2015 Enacted	2016 Request	Change
Bureau of Land Management.....	1.0	6.0	+5.0
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.....	0	1.0	+1.0
Bureau of Reclamation.....	3.5	3.5	0
U.S. Geological Survey.....	23.7	28.2	+4.4
Fish and Wildlife Service.....	11.0	18.5	+7.5
National Park Service.....	17.5	37.5	+20.0
Indian Affairs.....	5.0	12.5	+7.6
TOTAL.....	61.7	107.2	+45.5
<i>[NPS Recreation Fees].....</i>	<i>[6.4]</i>	<i>[6.4]</i>	<i>[0]</i>

EXPANDING OUTDOOR AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

The Department of the Interior works collaboratively through efforts such as the Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership to bridge the growing disconnect between young people, particularly in urban areas, and the great outdoors. Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership projects include:

URBAN ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS AT SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REFUGES

The Southern California Urban Wildlife Refuge Project incorporates outdoor learning, service and stewardship of natural habitats, and conservation-based projects for youth and young adults from diverse communities. It encompasses activities not only at the San Diego and Los Angeles Refuges, but also to the north at the Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex. This project connects youth to the environment by training teachers and students on the use of cutting-edge science to solve conservation problems. Additionally, the project develops job skills with low-income young adults to restore wildlife habitats along the Los Angeles River and lead outdoor education activities.

VALLE DE ORO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE URBAN WILDLIFE PARTNERSHIP

The Valle de Oro Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership aims to provide unique environmental and recreational opportunities for students and establish wildlife-friendly habitat sites throughout Albuquerque. The La Carpa project, a partnership of the refuge with the Center for Southwest Cultures and the Friends of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, will educate intergenerational Hispanic families about science, specifically ecology and sustainability, by using traditional Hispanic culture and artistic expression to bridge the gap between tradition and the modern society. The project will also implement ways of using social media to allow youth to express their interest in learning about science and the environment.

