



Strengthening Tribal Nations and Insular Communities

We know and understand that tribal Nations are in the best position of anyone to make decisions that are best for your people. So it's our job to figure out how the tools we have in our toolbox can best be brought to bear to support you.

*Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
7th Annual Tribal Nations Conference
November 5, 2015*

The United States has a unique nation-to-nation relationship with each of the 567 federally recognized Tribes and the Administration strongly supports tribal self-determination and Federal treaty and trust responsibilities to American Indians and Alaska Natives. The U.S. also has an important relationship with Native Hawaiians and the affiliated insular areas including the Territories of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. In addition, the Department of the Interior administers and oversees Federal assistance to the three Freely Associated States: the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

The Department of the Interior's programs maintain strong and important relationships with Native and insular communities, helping to promote efficient and effective governance and support nation-building and self-determination. These programs deliver community services, restore tribal homelands, fulfill commitments related to water and other resource rights, execute fiduciary trust responsibilities, support the stewardship of energy and other natural resources, create economic opportunity, and expand access to education.

The 2017 budget continues President Obama's coordinated all-of-government approach to better address Federal responsibilities and tribal needs. Coordination of this work across the Federal government is being carried out through the White House Council on Native American Affairs, chaired by Secretary Jewell. The President's budget provides significant increases across a wide range of Federal programs that serve Tribes—education, social services, health, infrastructure, climate resilience, and stewardship

of land, water, and other natural resources—and supports improved access to Federal programs and resources, particularly those focused on youth.

The Department and its bureaus and offices play an important leadership role in carrying out the Federal trust responsibility to Tribes and individual Indians. The budget capitalizes on the role of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Indian Country by supporting a Native American one-stop website to help American Indians and Native Alaskans find information about Federal funds, expertise, and programs across the U.S. government of specific benefit to their communities. Throughout Interior's bureaus and offices, the 2017 budget maintains the Administration's commitment to help empower tribal and insular communities to improve quality of life, create educational and economic opportunities, promote efficient and effective governance, preserve and foster cultural heritage, and steward natural resources.

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR NATIVE YOUTH

The 2017 budget includes key investments to support Generation Indigenous, an initiative launched in 2014 to address barriers to success for Native American youth. This initiative takes an integrative, comprehensive, and culturally appropriate approach to help improve lives of and opportunities for Native American youth. Multiple Federal agencies, including the Departments of the Interior, Education, Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, Agriculture, and Justice are working collaboratively with Tribes to implement education reforms and address issues facing youth. This request maintains President Obama's vision for

NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS
(dollars in millions)

	2016 Enacted	2017 Request	Change
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS			
Operation of Indian Programs	2,268	2,396	+128
Contract Support Costs	277	278	+1
Construction	194	197	+3
Indian School Construction [non-add]	[138]	[138]	[0]
Indian Settlements	49	55	+6
Indian Guaranteed Loan Program	8	8	0
Loan Level [non-add]	[114]	[106]	[-8]
Subtotal, Bureau of Indian Affairs	2,796	2,934	+138
Bureau of Land Management	17	17	0
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement	5	3	-2
Bureau of Reclamation	219	217	-3
U.S. Geological Survey	4	7	+3
Fish and Wildlife Service	11	13	+2
National Park Service	15	19	+4
Office of Natural Resources Revenue	39	40	+1
Indian Arts and Crafts Board	1	1	0
Wildland Fire	166	168	+2
Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians	139	140	+1
TOTAL, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR	3,412	3,559	+147

a 21st century Indian education system, grounded in both high academic standards and tribal values and traditions. It invests in improving educational opportunities and quality from the earliest years through college because in today’s global economy, a high quality education is no longer just a pathway to opportunity—it is a prerequisite to success.

The Interior budget proposes \$1.1 billion in Indian education programs to support a comprehensive transformation of the Bureau of Indian Education. This multi-year process will transform BIE into an organization that serves as a capacity builder and service provider to support Tribes in educating youth and delivers a world-class and culturally appropriate education across Indian Country. As part of the transformation, BIE has invested in areas that promote educational self-determination for tribal communities. The BIE issued the first Tribal Education Department grants and Sovereignty in Education grants to foster the capacity of Tribes to determine the educational needs of youth and run education programs. Furthermore, the budget now supports full funding of Tribal Grant Support Costs for Tribes which choose to operate BIE-funded schools. The 2017 budget request continues the BIE transformation with increased program investments

totaling \$49.3 million to improve opportunities and outcomes in the classroom; expand multi-generational programs to advance early childhood development; provide improved instructional services and teacher quality; and promote enhanced language and cultural programs. The budget also proposes investments to further enhance broadband and digital access and support tribal control of student education.

The budget provides \$138.3 million for education construction programs to replace and repair school facilities in poor condition and address deferred maintenance needs at the 183 campuses in the BIE school system. The 2016 enacted appropriation funds replacement of the remaining two BIE school campuses on the priority list created in 2004 and supports planning for schools on the 2016 list which is nearing completion. Finalization of the next replacement school construction list is expected early this year, once the rigorous negotiated rulemaking process is completed. The 2017 request for BIE school construction continues the momentum launched with the 2016 appropriation, and provides the funding stability necessary to develop an orderly construction pipeline and properly pace projects.

Making advanced education opportunities available for tribal members is a high priority for Tribes, who see education as the path to economic development and a better quality of life for communities through an educated and skilled tribal member workforce. The 2017 budget continues recognition of the important role tribal post-secondary schools play in empowering Indian students and tribal communities. The budget includes an increase of \$2.0 million for the BIE-owned and operated Haskell Indian University and Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute. The budget also includes an additional \$500,000 for Tribal Technical Colleges—United Tribes Technical College and Navajo Technical University—which became forward funded for the first time in 2016. In addition, the BIE budget includes \$6.8 million in increases for tribally controlled scholarships for post-secondary education, with a focus on recipients seeking degrees in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

To foster public private-partnerships that will further support improved student experiences at BIE funded schools, the 2017 budget proposes appropriations language enabling the Secretary to reactivate the National Foundation for American Indian Education. The proposed bill language will reinstate a foundation focused on fund raising to create opportunities for Indian students in and out of the classroom. The budget also includes an increase of \$3.6 million for Johnson O'Malley grants which support Indian student education.

Further supporting Native youth, BIA requests an additional \$2.0 million to support youth participation in natural resources programs focused on the protection, enhancement, and conservation of natural resources through science, education, and cultural learning. Tribal youth will benefit from the mentoring and positive role models provided by tribal personnel who work locally to manage and protect tribal trust resources. Programs aimed at tribal youth help to open future job opportunities, instill respect for resources, and develop an appreciation of the importance of natural resources to tribal cultures and livelihoods. The 2017 request will support nearly 60 new tribal youth projects and training programs throughout Indian Country and supplement existing training programs within the forestry, water, and agriculture programs.

Budget increases across other Federal agencies through the Generation Indigenous initiative will support educational outcomes and provide wrap-around services to help address barriers and pro-

vide opportunities for youth, including behavioral, mental health, and substance abuse services. These new investments will build on current efforts to better coordinate and demonstrate results from across the Federal government to serve Native American youth. These investments include: \$20.0 million for HUD-funded community facilities to support Native youth and teacher housing and \$8.0 million for Interior's efforts to address teacher housing needs; \$55.0 million in the HHS Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and Indian Health Service to support the Administration's priority of expanding access to mental health services to Native youth; \$26.6 million for the HHS Administration for Children and Families to support Native youth resiliency and leadership development, implementing special programs to increase and improve Native American language instruction across the educational continuum; and increase the ability of Tribes to effectively serve Native youth involved in the child welfare system. In addition, proposals of \$242.0 million in mandatory funding over 10 years to strengthen the capacity of tribal child welfare systems, including tribal courts and \$30.0 million increase to the Native Youth Community Projects at the Department of Education to support community driven, comprehensive strategies to improve college and career readiness of Native youth.

SUPPORTING INDIAN FAMILIES AND PROTECTING INDIAN COUNTRY

Supporting Indian families and ensuring public safety are top priorities for the President and tribal leaders. As part of the President's commitment to protect and promote the development of prosperous tribal communities, BIA will continue to expand the Tiwahe initiative. Tiwahe, which means family in the Lakota language, promotes a comprehensive, integrated and community-based approach to support child welfare, family stability, and strengthening tribal communities as a whole. The initiative directly supports the Generation Indigenous objective of addressing barriers to success for Native youth by leveraging BIA programs in concert with other Federal programs supporting family and community stability and cultural awareness.

Children living in poverty are far more likely to be exposed to violence and psychological trauma, both at home and in the surrounding community. Many Indian communities face high rates of poverty, substance abuse, suicide, and violent crime, leading to serious and persistent child abuse and neglect issues. Child maltreatment often leads to

ENSURING ALL NATIVE YOUTH REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

In May 2015, the Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewell, visited Riverside Indian School in Anadarko, Oklahoma, a school operated by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Education. The Secretary met with students and school officials, toured the facilities, and hosted a roundtable discussion. Most importantly, she heard from students and families about what's working at the school to help students succeed. She asked how the Federal government can better serve tribal communities because the best solutions come from local communities responding to local challenges. The visit was part of the President's Generation Indigenous initiative to remove barriers and ensure all young Native people can reach their full potential.

The Secretary discussed the White House Rural Council's efforts to reduce rural child poverty in the Anadarko community. In March 2015, the White House Rural Council launched "Rural Impact," a coordinated effort across the Federal government to improve quality of life and upward mobility for kids and families in rural and tribal communities. At Riverside, the Secretary heard from young people and community leaders about challenges with participating in Federal nutrition programs and health services. In rural areas, families often lack access to preventive health care, as well as school and summer meals. Rural Impact is tackling these barriers head on—increasing the number of rural sites for summer meals delivery, targeting outreach for community eligibility provision to rural schools, and investing in technology to improve access to critical health services.

Perhaps the most frequent refrain the Secretary heard was the importance of partnership. When it comes to government programs, there is no "one size fits all." That's why the Secretary is particularly proud that this Administration goes to the source—collaborating with communities to solve local problems. At the meeting, a representative from the Choctaw Nation—which last year was designated as the first tribal Promise Zone—said the Promise Zone initiative opened up new lines of communication between community and the Federal government that never existed before. With persistent limitations on fiscal resources, partnerships are crucial to solving problems.



disrupted extended family support networks and broken families when children are placed outside the community. Solutions lie in addressing the interrelated problems of poverty, violence, and substance abuse faced by many communities to help improve the lives and opportunities of Indian families. This requires tribally initiated coordination of social service programs, steps to maintain family cohesiveness; preparation for family wage earners for work opportunities; and rehabilitative alternatives to incarceration for family members with substance abuse issues.

The 2017 budget proposes \$21.0 million in program increases to support Tiwahe objectives, including \$12.3 million for social services programs to provide culturally appropriate services with the goal of

empowering individuals and families through health promotion, family stability, and strengthening tribal communities as a whole. The budget also includes increases of \$3.4 million for Indian Child Welfare Act programs that work with social services programs and the courts to keep Indian children in need of foster care in Indian communities where possible; an additional \$1.7 million to improve access to suitable housing for Indian families with children; and a \$1.0 million increase for job training and placement. The budget includes an additional \$2.6 million for tribal courts to implement a comprehensive strategy to provide alternatives to incarceration and increase treatment opportunities across Indian Country.

As a Departmental priority goal, the BIA Office of Justice Services works to support rehabilitation

PRIORITY GOAL
SAFER AND MORE RESILIENT
COMMUNITIES IN INDIAN COUNTRY

GOAL: Reduce repeat incarceration in Indian communities.

METRIC: By September 30, 2017, reduce rates of repeat incarceration in five target tribal communities by three percent through a comprehensive “alternatives to incarceration” strategy that seeks to address underlying causes of repeat offenses, including substance abuse and social service needs, through tribal and Federal partnerships.

and reduce recidivism by promoting alternatives to incarceration. The Office of Justice Services will continue pilot programs at five sites that seek to lower rates of repeat incarceration, with the goal of reducing recidivism by a total of three percent within these communities by September 30, 2017. The pilot programs will continue to implement comprehensive alternatives to incarceration strategies that seek to address the underlying causes of repeat offenses—including substance abuse and social service needs—through alternative courts, increased treatment opportunities, probation programs, and interagency and intergovernmental partnerships with tribal, Federal, and State stakeholders. These efforts will promote public safety and community resilience in Indian Country.

The Office of Justice Services provides technical assistance to Tribes to amend tribal legal codes to reflect provisions in the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. The updated codes provide stronger protections and safety for vulnerable populations and expand the jurisdiction of tribal law enforcement and justice systems to domestic violence altercations in Indian Country. The BIA also is implementing training for direct service law enforcement program staff in the areas of law enforcement, social services, victim services, and courts and is making this training available to Tribes operating these programs under self-determination contracts and compacts.

TRIBAL NATION-BUILDING

Programs run by Tribes through contracts with the Federal government support tribal nation-building and self-determination. The 2017 budget continues

the Administration’s commitment to fully fund contract support costs with an increase of \$1.0 million above the 2016 enacted level to fully fund estimated requirements for 2017. The budget also includes a legislative proposal to fully fund BIA and IHS contract support costs as mandatory funding, beginning in 2018. The BIA and Indian Health Service will continue to work together with Tribes and consult on policies to address long-term programmatic and funding goals to advance tribal self-determination.

Tribes and tribal organizations have expressed long-standing concerns about the need for accurate, meaningful, and timely data collection in American Indian/ Alaska Native communities. Tribal leaders and communities need access to quality data and information as they make decisions concerning their communities, economic development, and land and resource management. It is also critical that the Federal government collect and analyze quality data to ensure that Federal agencies and programs are delivering effective services to meet tribal needs and deliver on Federal responsibilities.

To address the quality of data for American Indian/ Alaska Native communities, the U.S. Census Bureau and BIA signed a memorandum of understanding in January 2016 to promote communication and collaboration between the two agencies and improve the dissemination of accurate data for American Indians and Alaska Natives. The Census Bureau and BIA agreed to work together to gain an accurate count of American Indians and Alaska Natives, share files that show boundaries for reservations and off-reservation trust and restricted lands, and establish a workgroup to discuss and resolve data issues.

The 2017 BIA budget supports this effort with an increase of \$12.0 million to enable the Department of the Interior to work with Tribes to improve Federal data quality and availability, create a reimbursable agreement with the Census Bureau to address data gaps in Indian Country, and to create an Office of Indian Affairs Policy, Program Evaluation, and Data to support effective, data driven, tribal policy making and program implementation.

To deliver on an all-of-government approach to delivering programs and funding to Indian Country, the BIA budget proposes an increase of \$4.0 million to continue development of a Native American One-Stop website to make it easier for Tribes to find and access the hundreds of services available to Tribes across the Federal government. The funding will also support efforts at the regional and local levels

to assist Tribes to find services and receive consistent information about programs available to them. The website and support center will reduce costs by eliminating duplication of outreach efforts and services by Federal government agencies. The Native One-Stop website currently has a portal focused on programs that serve Native American youth, in support of the Generation Indigenous initiative.

SUSTAINABLE STEWARDSHIP OF TRUST RESOURCES

The BIA's trust programs assist Tribes in the management, development, and protection of Indian trust land and natural resources on 56 million surface acres and 60 million acres of subsurface mineral estates. These programs assist tribal landowners to optimize sustainable stewardship and use of resources, providing benefits such as revenue, jobs, and the protection of cultural, spiritual, and traditional resources. Income from energy is one of the larger sources of revenue generated from trust lands, with royalty income of \$826 million in 2015. The Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians manages the trust funds generated from royalties on natural resource use, in addition to revenues from judgment awards, settlement of claims, land-use agreements, other proceeds derived directly from trust resources, and financial investment income. The OST manages nearly \$4.9 billion held in nearly 3,300 trust accounts for more than 250 Indian Tribes and 400,000 open Individual Indian Money accounts. The OST has fiduciary responsibility for trust fund management, including receipt, investment, disbursement, and reporting of Indian trust funds on behalf of individuals and Tribes, and real estate appraisals on Indian trust and restricted real property.

The Indian Energy Service Center received initial funding in 2016. The Center will expedite the leasing, permitting, and reporting for conventional and renewable energy on Indian lands; provide resources to ensure development occurs safely and protects the environment; and manages risks appropriately with technical assistance to support assessment of the social and environmental impacts of energy development. The Center will include staff from BIA, OST, the Office of Natural Resources Revenue, and Bureau of Land Management—all of which have responsibilities related to tribal energy advancement. Working with the Department of Energy's Tribal Energy Program, the Center will provide a full suite of energy development related services to Tribes nationwide and meet the workload requirements of current demands for services. The Center will

coordinate and enhance the BIA ability to process leases, the BLM responsibility for Applications for Permit to Drill approval and monitoring, and the ONRR responsibilities for royalty accounting. In addition, the Center will institute streamlined processes, standardized procedures, and best practices for all types of energy at various locations and bureaus.

The BIA has taken several steps to help Tribes proactively steward Indian resources that support economic stability and tribal cultural heritage in Indian country. The Department is requesting a \$2.0 million increase to address subsistence management in Alaska. Alaska Native communities, among the most economically challenged in the Country, also are at the highest risk of negative impacts to basic cultural practices due to environmental changes in Alaska. The Department is committed to helping Alaska Native leaders build strong, prosperous, and resilient communities. The funding will target areas across the State that promote tribal cooperative management of fish and wildlife and improve access to subsistence resources on Federal lands and waters. To facilitate management of trust resources, the budget includes a total increase of \$6.9 million for Trust Real Estate Services activities to expand capacity to address the probate backlog, land title and records processing, geospatial support needs, and database management.

The budget also invests in stewardship of assets maintained by BIA for the benefit of Tribes. The budget proposes an additional \$2.0 million for the Safety of Dams program. The program is currently responsible for 136 high or significant-hazard dams located on 42 Indian reservations in 13 States. The program maintains and rehabilitates dams to protect the purposes for which the dam was built and the floodplain downstream. The program contracts with Tribes to perform many aspects of the program. The budget also includes \$1.0 million for deferred maintenance needs at regional and agency facilities to address safety, security, and handicap accessibility issues.

INCREASING RESILIENCE OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN INDIAN COUNTRY

Tribes throughout the U.S. are already experiencing the impacts of a changing climate including drought, intensifying wildfires, changes in plants and animals important to subsistence and cultural practices, impacts to treaty and trust resources, and coastal erosion and sea level rise. Executive Order

13653, *Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change*, calls on the Federal government to partner with Tribes from across the U.S. in planning, preparing, and responding to the impacts of climate change.

Responding to these recommendations, which included input from hundreds of tribal leaders, the budget provides a \$15.1 million increase over 2016 across eight BIA trust natural resource programs to support tribal communities in preparing for and responding to the impacts of climate change. Funds will provide support for Tribes to develop and access science, tools, training, and planning; and to implement actions that build resilience into resource management, infrastructure, and community development activities. Funding will be set-aside to support Alaska Native Villages in the Arctic and other critically vulnerable communities in evaluating options for long-term resilience.

Tribal lands, particularly in the West and Alaska, are by their geography and location on the frontline of climate change, yet many of these communities face immense challenges in planning for and responding to the far-reaching impacts of climate change on infrastructure, economic development, food security, natural and cultural resources, and local culture. Some communities are already experiencing increasingly devastating storms, droughts, floods, sea-level rise, and threats to subsistence resources. Strengthening access to information and resources, including technical and financial assistance to address the combined and cumulative effects, are among the highest priorities for supporting climate change adaptation and resilience. Examples of projects that may be funded include training, studies, scenario planning, natural resource and infrastructure projects, public awareness and outreach efforts, capacity building, and other projects.

PRESERVING TRIBAL CULTURAL HERITAGE

The National Park Service administers Historic Preservation Fund Grants-in-Aid to Tribal Historic Preservation Offices to protect and preserve tribal cultural resources and heritage. The Tribal Historic Preservation Offices work on the front lines in protecting cultural resources and significant places important to the cultural identity of American Indians and Alaska Natives. They also ensure activities reflect the knowledge and participation of tribal elders, spiritual leaders, and preservation professionals, as well as assist Federal agencies in

complying with the National Historic Preservation Act on reservations and within traditional homelands. In recent years, 10 to 17 new Tribal Historic Preservation Offices have been established each year as more Tribes participate in the program. The 2017 budget proposes a \$2.0 million increase for NPS Historic Preservation Fund Grants-In-Aid to Tribes, for a total of \$12.0 million.

The NPS also administers tribal heritage grants to Indian Tribes, Alaska Native villages and corporations, and Native Hawaiian organizations for the preservation and protection of their cultural heritage. Unlike Tribal Historic Preservation Offices grants, these grants are competitively selected, require a projected completion date of two years or less, and are funded under five basic categories: locating and identifying cultural resources; preserving historic structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places; comprehensive preservation planning; oral history and documenting cultural traditions; and education and training for building a historic preservation program.

LAND BUY-BACK PROGRAM

In 2015, the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations continued to implement the land consolidation component of the Cobell Settlement, which provides \$1.9 billion to purchase fractional interests in trust or restricted land from willing sellers at fair market value. Since December 2013, the Land Buy-Back Program has made more than \$1.7 billion in purchase offers to more than 67,500 owners of fractionated interests at 21 locations. The program has paid more than \$730 million to landowners and restored the equivalent of nearly 1.5 million acres of land to tribal governments. Currently, Land Buy-Back Program activities are scheduled to be implemented at 42 tribal communities—locations that represent 83 percent of all outstanding fractional interests across Indian Country—through the middle of 2017. The program plans to increase the number of locations in the years ahead and is starting a planning initiative to assist in development of its next implementation schedule for the remainder of 2017 and beyond. The two-pronged planning initiative seeks input from tribal governments and landowners interested in participating in the program.

Under the terms of the Settlement, the Department of the Interior has until November 2022 to expend the funding to acquire at fair market value fractional interests in trust or restricted land from willing sellers. Fractionation is a key impediment

to economic development and is a significant factor in the complexity and cost of managing Indian trust lands. Lands acquired through the program will remain in trust or restricted status and are immediately consolidated for beneficial use by tribal communities, including farming and cultural preservation. The program is focusing on the most fractionated locations and using a detailed mass appraisal method to achieve the most cost-effective acquisition of fractional interests.

Program sales are already making a significant difference for individuals, families, and tribal communities. For example, land secured in trust for the Crow Tribe will be used for a new community water plant on land that is now 100 percent tribally owned as a result of the program. Aided by acquisition of land through the Land Buy-Back Program, the Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Reservation is embarking on a \$9.0 million housing program.

The Cobell Settlement authorized the Cobell Education Scholarship Fund which is capitalized in part by the Land Buy-Back Program. Interior makes transfers to the Fund based on a formula that sets aside contributions based on the value of the fractionated interests sold. The Settlement authorizes up to \$60.0 million in transfers to the Fund as a result of sales. To date, the total amount contributed to the Fund as a result of sales is nearly \$35 million. The Fund is designed to be a permanent endowment which provides financial assistance through scholarships to American Indian and Alaska Native students wishing to pursue post-secondary and graduate education and training. Scholarships are key to advancing tribal self-determination by opening doors to the next generation of leaders in Indian Country. The Fund, administered by the American Indian Graduate Center, awarded the first Cobell scholarships in 2015 and will disburse approximately \$2.5 million in funds in its first round of awards. Scholarship recipients for school year 2015-2016 represent more than 340 undergraduate and graduate students in over 80 tribal Nations who will be attending more than 175 different academic institutions.

INDIAN SETTLEMENTS

The 2017 budget request for Indian water rights settlements continues the Administration's strong commitment to resolve tribal water rights claims and ensure Tribes have access to use and manage water to meet domestic, economic, cultural, and ecological needs. Many of the projects supported in these

agreements bring clean and potable water to tribal communities, while other projects repair crumbling irrigation and water delivery infrastructure on which tribal economies depend. These investments not only improve the health and well-being of tribal members and preserve existing economies but also, over the long term, bring the potential for jobs and economic development.

The 2017 budget for authorized settlements and technical and legal support involving tribal water rights totals \$215.5 million, an increase of \$4.6 million from the 2016 enacted level. In 2016, the Department will complete the Taos Pueblos water settlement and in 2017, Interior will complete the funding requirements for the BIA portion of the Aamodt water rights settlement.

To strengthen the Department's capacity to meet its trust responsibilities and more effectively partner with Tribes on water issues, the 2017 budget includes a \$13.7 million increase across the budgets of BIA, BLM, the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Geological Survey, and Fish and Wildlife Service. This funding will support a more robust, coordinated, Interior-wide approach to working with and supporting Tribes in resolving water rights claims and supporting sustainable stewardship of tribal water resources. Funds will strengthen the engagement, management, and analytical capabilities of the Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office; increase coordination and expertise among bureaus and offices that work on these issues; and increase support to Tribes.

The 2017 budget request also continues the Administration's strong commitment to honor enacted land settlements. The budget includes \$10.0 million to provide the Yurok Tribe in Northern California funds to acquire lands as authorized in the Hoopa-Yurok Settlement Act. The Act authorizes the Secretary funding for the purpose of acquiring land or interests in land within, adjacent to, and contiguous with the Yurok Reservation from willing sellers. This one-time funding satisfies the Federal contribution. This funding for land acquisition supports efforts by the Yurok Tribe and partners in conservation to conserve 47,097 acres of the Klamath-Siskiyou ecoregion which will be managed as a salmon sanctuary and sustainable community forest. The conservation will ensure the health of the ecoregion and assist the on-reservation Yurok community revitalize its cultural heritage and develop a natural resource-based economy that supports and employs tribal members.

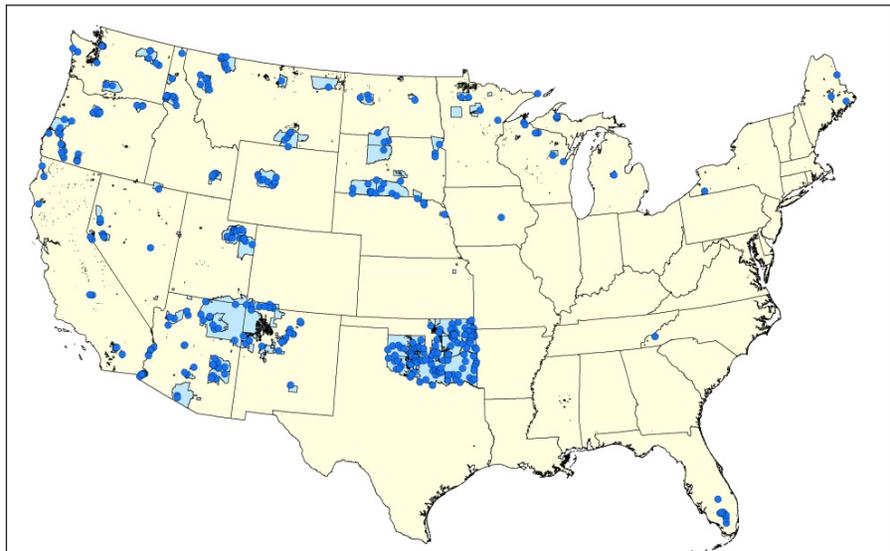
THE USGS ROLE IN TRIBAL WATER RIGHTS AND SUBSISTENCE

Tribes depend on science to support tribal sustenance and sovereignty. The U.S. Geological Survey is at the forefront, providing solid science to Tribes. The USGS scientists work closely with tribal leaders around the Country to address water availability issues related to quantity and quality on tribal lands. The USGS-coordinated efforts with Tribes span a wide variety of activities across the Nation, including monitoring an extensive network of USGS streamflow gages and groundwater monitoring stations, development of models and decision making tools, and scientific research on how human factors can affect the water cycle, and water quantity and quality. The USGS information is used by tribal managers to address such topics as water rights, water supply, flood-warning predictions, contamination, and sustainability of critical habitats and healthy ecosystems. The USGS budget request includes \$500,000 to build on efforts initiated in 2015 to support this work through cooperative matching funds with States, localities, and Tribes.

The Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians in Houlton, Maine, said: “Our Tribe relies on USGS streamflow gaging activities to maintain aquatic habitat and the seasonal harvesting of a variety of native medicinal flora of importance to our tribal lifestyle and long-standing tribal ceremonies. In addition, USGS streamgages, such as on the Meduxnekeag River in Eastern Maine, provide us valuable real-time information on river flow and water quality that is critical to native fish habitat, including for spawning Atlantic salmon, a native species the Tribe hopes to restore to healthy populations.”

The USGS streamgaging on the Meduxnekeag River in eastern Maine helps the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians manage and restore native fish habitats, such as for spawning Atlantic salmon.

The Columbia River system—spanning from British Columbia to Nevada and from Wyoming to Oregon—is one of the most important salmon habitats in the world and is home to nearly eight million people, including tribal Nations. Urbanization, recreation, commercial fishing, hydropower, and agriculture have all had profound impacts on the basin’s aquatic habitat and fish populations, with salmon a particular concern for Tribes and the fishing industry. The USGS is working to help land and water managers and tribal leadership improve ecosystem management by assessing the effects of dam removal projects, tracking salmon populations by using leading edge technologies to sample DNA right from the water, and discovering chemicals in other fish species that are harmful to humans.



In 2014, USGS streamgages monitored water flow at more than 530 sites on tribal lands, 1,160 within five miles of tribal lands, and 1,745 within 10 miles of tribal lands. On the map, darker areas are streamgage locations on or near Indian reservations.

EMPOWERING INSULAR COMMUNITIES AND IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE

The Department works with insular governments to improve quality of life in the Territories and Freely Associated States by providing technical assistance and pairing access to financial resources for capital improvements and public services with robust oversight. The Office of Insular Affairs 2017 budget provides \$21.1 million for Technical Assistance, an increase of \$5.6 million from the 2016 enacted level. Of the increase, \$1.6 million will provide additional funds for direct grants and projects benefiting the seven insular areas. The remaining \$4.0 million increase will provide support for community, landscape and infrastructure adaptation and resilience initiatives.

The request includes an increase of \$3.9 million to improve health and safety conditions in insular school facilities. The Insular Assessment of Buildings and Classrooms initiative represents a partnership between OIA and the four U.S. Territories of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and the Virgin Islands to improve the physical condition of K-12 public schools. The OIA and the insular areas established a five-year time frame to substantially reduce health and safety-related deferred maintenance issues. The Maintenance Assistance Program generally uses grants as the primary means to provide funding for

deferred maintenance projects; grants to individual island areas may require a match.

Insular communities face unique economic development challenges due to geographic isolation, finite resources, and dependence on imported oil for energy needs. To assist the islands in meeting these challenges, OIA is working to strengthen the foundation for economic development by addressing energy needs through building sustainable energy strategies that are not reliant on oil. With sustainable energy plans completed for each of the Territories, the 2017 budget requests a total of \$5.0 million to implement these strategies through sustainable energy projects. Expected areas of emphasis include power transmission and consumer efficiency, geothermal test drilling, solar installations, test wind turbines, and grid integration studies.

The 2017 request for Coral Reef Initiative and Natural Resources is \$2.0 million, an increase of \$1.0 million from the 2016 level. The OIA supports the 2015 Biosecurity Plan for Hawaii and Micronesia and other invasive species eradication efforts. In particular, the requested funding would augment climate-related invasive species control and eradication efforts for the coconut rhinoceros beetle and little fire ant. These two invasive species pose significant challenges to regional ecosystems and present both health and economic risks to communities in the Pacific. The funding would also augment capacity building efforts within the insular areas in their natural and cultural resources management efforts.