The 2019 budget for the Department of the Interior features targeted investments to further the Administration’s objectives to prioritize American interests by leading in American energy dominance, restoring public access to public lands, and strengthening the economy through infrastructure investment, regulatory relief, and fiscal responsibility.

The Department of the Interior conserves and manages the Nation’s natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people, provides scientific and other information about natural resources and natural hazards to address societal challenges and create opportunities for the American people, and honors the Nation’s trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities to help them prosper. The Department’s 2019 budget reflects the Administration’s commitment to strike the right balance of development and conservation of America’s resources to advance important national objectives.

The Department of the Interior works to:

- **Promote energy dominance and critical minerals independence** to create jobs for Americans, insulate our Nation from volatile political developments overseas, provide additional energy security to allies via surplus domestic supply, and generate revenue for all levels of government so they in turn have the resources to better serve the American people.

- **Increase access to outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans** so our people can be healthier, more fully enjoy the wonderful features of their Federal lands, and take advantage of hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation pursuits.

- **Enhance conservation stewardship** where all levels of government and private landowners work cooperatively together in an atmosphere of mutual respect to achieve shared natural resource management goals.

- **Improve management of species and their habitats** by focusing our financial and staff resources on improving the status of our Nation’s fish and wildlife and the healthy habitats that support them, and by streamlining bureaucracy to help us spend more of our funding productively on the ground to better meet societal needs and our own natural resource management responsibilities.

- **Uphold trust and related responsibilities**, recognizing the importance of government-to-government relationships with Indian Tribes, Alaska Natives, and insular areas, and respecting self-determination and sovereignty.
Growing America’s Economy

The Department of the Interior touches American lives in many ways—managing one-fifth of the land in the United States and delivering water and generating power in the West. Across Interior’s diverse mission, this budget emphasizes the Department’s crucial role in promoting economic growth for America. The Department is responsible for the oversight and management of America’s public lands, national parks, energy and mineral resources, grazing lands, and more. As the steward of this public trust, Interior manages America’s public lands for multiple uses, ensuring these lands are available for outdoor recreation and responsible energy development, where appropriate. Through this balanced stewardship of resources, which recognizes the value of conservation and development, Interior helps drive job opportunities and economic growth.

America’s lands hold tremendous job-creating assets. Interior supports $254 billion in estimated economic benefit, while direct grants and payments to States, Tribes, and local communities provide an estimated $10 billion in economic benefit. In 2017, the Department collected $9.6 billion from energy, mineral, grazing, and forestry activities on behalf of the American people. Interior also supports the economy by eliminating unnecessary and burdensome Federal regulatory requirements. For example, in 2017, Interior initiated 21 deregulatory actions, saving taxpayers $3.8 billion over time.

The Department facilitates the creation of jobs across America through our national parks and outdoor recreation opportunities at Interior’s spectacular and unique public lands and cultural sites. Visitors to our parks spend more than $18.4 billion in local gateway communities, supporting nearly 318,000 jobs and contributing $34.9 billion into the national economy, according to the 2016 National Park Service Visitor Spending Effects Report.

Interior also plays an important role in the Administration’s key economic objective to strengthen America’s infrastructure. The Department directly manages thousands of real property assets but also has responsibility for reviewing and approving permits for other public and private sector uses of Interior lands, including energy and minerals

SECRETARY RYAN ZINKE’S TOP TEN PRIORITIES

- Create a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt.
- Sustainably develop our energy and natural resources.
- Restore trust and be a good neighbor.
- Ensure sovereignty means something.
- Increase revenues to support Interior and national interests.
- Protect our people and the border.
- Strike a regulatory balance.
- Modernize our infrastructure.
- Reorganize Interior for the next 100 years.
- Achieve our goals and lead our team forward.

The Department’s 2019 budget request supports the Administration’s broader economic goals to manage Federal spending with restraint. Interior’s fiscal year 2019 budget request is $11.7 billion in current authority. The budget also proposes to transfer $111.0 million from the Department of Defense for commitments to the Republic of Palau, for a total 2019 budget of $11.8 billion in current authority. The amounts presented here reflect an additional $367.1 million provided in the Budget Policy Addendum for 2019, which includes an increase for the National Park Service, Operation of the National Park System of $270.9 million, an increase for Payments in Lieu of Taxes of $68.1 million, and an adjustment to the LWCF Contract Authority Cancellation of $28.1 million. These changes are not reflected in the 2019 President’s Budget documents.

A major component of the 2019 budget is the Public Lands Infrastructure legislative proposal, which will provide up to $18 billion to address Interior’s deferred maintenance backlog in the national parks, national wildlife refuges, and Bureau of Indian Education schools. The investment in the Department’s infrastructure will be funded by energy leasing revenues. The proposal complements the President’s national infrastructure investment proposal and recognizes the strategic importance of a long-term investment in America’s treasures.
Development, pipelines, and transmission infrastructure. In doing this work, Interior must ensure necessary environmental compliance, including up-front and formal consultations.

Interior is one of 13 Federal agencies designated to implement Title 41 of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act—commonly referred to as FAST41—designed to improve the timeliness, predictability, and transparency of the Federal environmental review and authorization process for specific infrastructure projects.

The Department is a member of the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council, which includes senior leadership of Federal agencies responsible for conducting reviews and permitting for covered projects. The FAST41 is designed to improve consultation and coordination among government agencies; increase transparency and timeliness of Federal authorizations and environmental reviews; and increase accountability through consultation and reporting on projects. Of the current 22 FAST41 infrastructure projects, Interior is the lead agency for eight and a coordinating or cooperating agency for 12 projects. Dovetailing with the FAST41 effort, in 2017, Secretarial Order 3355 was issued to enhance and modernize the Department’s Federal environmental review process under the National Environmental Policy Act, to bring even greater discipline to the documentation of the Department’s analyses and identify opportunities to further increase efficiencies.

The Department oversees more than 700 million acres of subsurface minerals, mostly through the BLM and Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. In addition, Interior has responsibility

**Advancing Energy Dominance**

Interior plays a significant role in the Administration’s objective to achieve America’s energy dominance. Interior is unlocking America’s domestic energy resources to advance both the Nation’s economic and national security position by reducing dependence on other nations for energy. The Department of the Interior is working to improve access to public lands, remove unnecessary and burdensome roadblocks, and smartly balance conservation while facilitating exploration and development of America’s energy resources.

Interior is the steward and manager of America’s natural resources including oil, gas, coal, and hydropower and supports installation of renewable energy sources. Paired with policies that foster growth and local input, American energy resources create jobs and generate significant revenue for the U.S. Treasury, States, and local economies. Interior disbursements from energy and minerals production on Federal and American Indian lands and offshore areas totaled $7.1 billion in 2017, nearly $1 billion above the previous year. Of this, States received $1.4 billion, tribal governments and individual mineral rights owners received nearly $676 million, and $900.0 million went into the Land and Water Conservation Fund to support outdoor recreation opportunities and conservation.

Onshore, the Department oversees more than 480 million acres of lands and 700 million acres of subsurface minerals, mostly through the BLM and Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. In addition, Interior has responsibility...
UNLEASHING AMERICA’S ENERGY POTENTIAL

In response to Executive Order 13783, Interior released the report Review of the Department of the Interior Actions that Potentially Burden Domestic Energy, identifying agency actions that potentially burden the development or use of domestically produced energy resources. This review guided real action to foster multiple-use of natural resources, which includes energy development under reasonable regulations. Among the actions identified in the review that are underway or accomplished:

- Launched development of a new 5-year offshore energy development program.
- Ended the 2016 moratorium on new Federal coal leases.
- Rescinded the Hydraulic Fracturing on Federal and Indian Lands Rule.
- Review the Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation Rule.
- Reduce the time and costs of NEPA reviews, to reduce project delays, including hydropower projects.
- Re-examine compensatory mitigation policies to ensure they do not unnecessarily burden the public and project proponents.
- Address systematic delays in the onshore leasing program and permitting process.
- Develop regulatory and administrative recommendations to improve the application of the Endangered Species Act to reduce project costs and delays.

At the same time, Secretary Zinke signed Secretarial Order 3358 establishing an Executive Committee for Expedited Permitting at Interior. The ECEP includes the Deputy Secretary and Assistant Secretarial leadership from across the Department, with the charge to improve Interior’s energy permitting in service to the American public and Indian Country. The Committee will evaluate and recommend energy-permitting policies to better meet the Nation’s energy needs, facilitate identification of energy rights-of-way corridors on Federal lands for expedited review of energy infrastructure projects, improve interagency communication regarding energy-permitting, and identify best practices and reforms.

for the largest land trust in the world. Today, the Indian trust encompasses nearly 56 million surface acres and 59 million acres of subsurface mineral estates. The Department, through the Bureau of Reclamation, is the second largest hydropower producer in the Country. Offshore, the Department oversees oil, gas, and wind development for 1.7 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf through the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement.

This budget proposes $792.0 million in current and permanent funding for energy related programs across the Department. Interior’s 2019 budget continues to support an “all-of-the-above” energy development strategy, increasing funding for onshore and offshore oil and gas, expanding coal activities, and sustaining the current pace of renewable energy development.

A large portion of Interior’s energy development activities occur on the Outer Continental Shelf. The 2019 request includes support from offsetting collection needs for a total offshore energy development and safety program of $379.2 million.

The budget includes a total of $179.3 million for offshore oil, gas, and renewable energy development activities in BOEM. This funding reflects the
importance of offshore production to America’s economic and energy security. It includes $9.4 million for BOEM to prepare a 2019-2024 leasing program. In January 2018, Secretary Zinke announced the 2019-2024 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program.

The request for BOEM also includes $28.1 million for Renewable Energy activities across the Bureau. In 2017, the Department announced completion of the Nation’s seventh competitive lease sale for renewable wind energy in Federal waters. A Wind Energy Area of 122,405 acres offshore Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, received the high bid of $9.1 million. Although the energy production from the sale will depend on the size of the project developed, the lease area is estimated to have the potential to generate enough energy to power more than 500,000 homes.

Integral to a strong offshore energy program are the continued efforts of BSEE, whose staff in the Gulf of Mexico, California, and Alaska are dedicated to maintaining a strong offshore safety culture. The 2019 budget includes $199.9 million for BSEE’s programs to streamline the permitting process, conduct inspections, evaluate emerging offshore technologies, improve safety, conduct training, and maintain up-to-date policies, standards, and guidelines. The BSEE also protects Federal royalty interests by ensuring oil and gas production methods maximize recovery from underground reservoirs and production volumes are accurately measured. In addition, BSEE manages an oil spill response and preparedness program as well as compliance programs governing offshore oil, gas, and mineral operations.

Onshore, the budget includes $176.3 million in current and permanent funding for the BLM oil and gas management program which generated $348.9 million from bonus bids derived from onshore oil and gas lease sales in 2017. A recent U.S. Geological Survey and BLM assessment of undiscovered, technically recoverable onshore oil and gas resources in Alaska indicates higher than previously estimated oil and gas resource potential largely due to new insights on two geological formations in the National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska area. The assessment estimates a mean of 8.7 billion barrels of oil and 25 trillion cubic feet of gas of potential resources in the area, a significant increase from a 2010 assessment, which estimated a mean of 1.5 billion barrels of oil. In 2017, BLM, BOEM, and USGS conducted these assessments in compliance with Secretarial Order 3352 as part of a program directed at estimating the undiscovered, technically recoverable oil and gas resources of priority petroleum basins in the United States. The next USGS assessments to be conducted are for the Alaska 1002 Area—in which Congress recently authorized oil and gas leasing and development—and the area west of the NPR-A.

The 2019 budget includes $137.2 million in appropriated funds for BLM oil and gas management and oversight, including leasing, permitting, and inspections. This funding will be used to expand areas available for leasing, expedite permitting, and improve various aspects of the program management. The funding also will help to facilitate infrastructure needed to move oil and gas to refineries and end-users with resources to expedite the processing of BLM rights-of-way.

The budget includes $19.5 million for the BLM coal management program which will continue to focus on reducing processing times, simplify the lease application process, and improve the timeliness to complete lease sale fair market value determinations. In 2017, the Administration ended a Federal coal leasing moratorium recognizing that the Federal coal leasing program supplies roughly 40 percent of the coal produced in the United States. In 2017, BLM approved a $22.0 million coal lease on the Green Hollow tract in Utah, estimated to contain more than 55 million tons of recoverable, high-energy producing coal. Also in 2017, the Administration nullified the Stream Protection Rule, which proposed to revise regulations governing surface coal mining operations.

The budget includes $16.0 million for BLM to support onshore Renewable Energy development. The BLM Renewable Energy Management program processes leasing and development applications for geothermal energy, rights-of-way and leasing.
applications for wind and solar energy, and rights-of-way applications for transmission lines connecting to renewable energy-related projects. The BLM conducts full environmental reviews under the NEPA on all renewable energy projects proposed on BLM-administered public lands. The request aligns with anticipated BLM workload addressing near-term demand.

An important component of Interior’s natural resource programs is the collection and disbursement of receipts from development. The 2019 budget includes $137.5 million for the Office of Natural Resources Revenue. In 2017, Secretary Zinke held the first meeting of the re-established Royalty Policy Committee, which includes 20 members representing local, tribal, and State governments and other stakeholders. They will advise the Secretary on the fair market value and revenue collection from Federal and Indian mineral and energy leases, including renewable energy sources.

**Increasing Natural Resource Development**

Interior manages a wealth of additional natural resource assets that require balanced stewardship and management. The BLM manages nearly 65 million acres of forest and woodlands across 12 western States and Alaska in accordance with the multiple-use, sustained yield mandate of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has a trust responsibility concerning the management of Indian forest lands by 310 Tribes across 18.7 million acres. The BIA works closely with the Tribes regarding land management decisions to help ensure resource sustainability, forest health, and continued economic development. Interior is working together with other Federal partners to achieve a better balance of forest health and productivity in the Nation’s timber-rich areas. Many of the Nation’s forests and woodlands are increasingly over-grown and unhealthy, which can increase the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Sharp declines in timber-related employment have significantly affected many rural communities. Balanced timber harvest levels can support job growth and benefit local economies in timber-rich and historically timber-dependent communities,

**HELPING TO PROTECT WORKING LANDSCAPES**

In December 2017, BLM initiated an environmental analysis of fuel breaks, fuels reduction, and habitat restoration projects on sagebrush steppe rangelands in California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington to ensure healthy, productive working landscapes and wildlife habitats. Region-wide analyses of impacts and cumulative effects will help BLM streamline authorization of projects aimed at reducing the risk of wildfires and restoring degraded habitats.

Large-scale wildfires have become significantly more frequent throughout the western U.S. in recent years, particularly in sagebrush steppe ecosystems. Wildfires have begun to exceed 100,000 acres on a regular basis and areas are re-burning more frequently. Large and frequent fires often result in conversion of sagebrush to annual grasses like invasive cheatgrass, and native habitats cannot recover naturally.

Strategically sited fuel breaks can help slow the progress of wildfires, allowing for better firefighter safety and increased protection of human life and property, livestock forage, and important ecological resources such as sage grouse habitat. Treating invasive plants like cheatgrass and encroaching species like juniper further helps to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

The BLM has identified fire, invasive annual grasses, and conifer encroachment as the most significant threats to sagebrush steppe in the Great Basin. Focusing on these threats also will help BLM protect working landscapes that contribute to healthy local economies.
including tribal communities; help reduce fire risk; and help create healthier forests and woodlands for wildlife while supporting a viable timber industry well into the future.

Maintaining healthy and productive forests requires active management. The 2019 budget includes $9.5 million for BLM’s Public Domain Forestry program and $90.0 million for the Oregon and California grant lands. Both programs support jobs and local economies through timber and timber product sales. The programs also maintain and improve the productivity and resilience of forest and woodland ecosystems through sales and forest development projects such as density management and reforestation. In 2019, BLM will continue to implement efficiencies and prioritize Allowable Sale Quantity timber sale outputs in western Oregon.

The BLM actively manages rangeland and grazing activities on public lands in the West which remain a vital part of local western economies. The 2019 budget includes $82.1 million for the Rangeland Management program. The program focuses on efforts to maintain or improve public land health through monitoring and land health evaluations; administration of grazing use through permit renewals—largely 10-year permits; development of grazing systems and range improvements; grazing permit compliance inspections; management of permittee, allotment, and resource data; and management of invasive species and noxious weeds. The BLM manages nearly 18,000 livestock grazing permits and leases on the public lands.

The USGS is the Nation’s leading source of expertise in earth and natural sciences and works closely with other Interior bureaus and State, local, tribal, and other Federal partners to help resource managers make informed decisions. The USGS focuses on core science activities including land and water resources, energy and minerals, mapping, ecosystems, invasive species, natural hazards, and includes funding for the 2021 launch of the Landsat 9 ground system.

The USGS Mineral Resources program, which conducts assessments to identify critical minerals and estimate potential supplies is an example. President Trump and Secretary Zinke signed Orders prioritizing the need to reduce America’s dependence on foreign sources for critical mineral supplies, citing a recent USGS report examining 23 minerals the U.S. relies upon for manufacturing everything from batteries and computer chips to equipment used by our military. Secretary Zinke’s Order directs Interior bureaus to identify a list of critical minerals, identify domestic sources, and streamline permitting to encourage domestic production of these critical materials.

REDUCING AMERICA’S DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN MINERALS

In response to the President’s Executive Order on a Federal Strategy to Ensure Secure and Reliable Supplies of Critical Minerals, the Secretary directed USGS to identify new sources of critical minerals by providing access to the most advanced geological and topographical surveys. The BLM and USGS were directed to provide a list of minerals defined as “critical minerals,” which will be coordinated with the Department of Defense. Ensuring the Nation has access to advanced geologic, geophysical, and topographic data will inform private-sector domestic exploration, production, and development of critical minerals to reduce dependence on foreign imports and improve the balance of trade, support job creation, preserve the Nation’s innovation leadership, improve national security, and enhance the technological superiority of the United States Armed Forces, a significant consumer of critical minerals.

“Right now the United States is almost completely reliant on foreign adversaries and competitors for many of the minerals that are deemed critical for our national and economic security. As both a former military commander and geologist, I know the risk this presents to our Nation,” said Secretary Ryan Zinke. “The problem is we can’t fix the problem if we don’t know where the minerals are within our own borders. Other nations are far ahead of us with mapping of their mineral resources, leading to private sector investment overseas rather than right here at home. Creating a complete topographical and geographic survey of the United States is exactly the kind of task the USGS was created to do.”
minerals. The 2019 budget for USGS includes $19.1 million to support this Administration priority. With this funding, USGS will accelerate nationwide geological, geophysical, and topographical surveys of the United States to locate domestic critical mineral sources.

**CONSERVING OUR LAND AND WATER AND EXPANDING OUTDOOR ACCESS**

Interior is the steward of America’s public lands and cultural resources for the benefit of current and future generations. Among Secretary Zinke’s top priorities for the Department are to create a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt and to restore trust and be a good neighbor to the States and local communities where Interior manages lands and resources. An important part of achieving these priorities has been the Secretary’s efforts to increase public access to Interior’s lands for sportsmen and other recreational visitors, and to strengthen collaborative Federal, State, and tribal conservation efforts.

Taking care of the resources we have rather than acquiring new Federal lands continues to be a top priority in the 2019 budget. The budget focuses resources on conservation stewardship and increased access for the public use and enjoyment of Interior’s existing lands. To administer ongoing projects, the budget for land acquisition programs across the Department is $8.1 million.

The 2019 budget includes $4.6 billion for operating programs in the three primary land management bureaus—BLM, FWS, and NPS. This funding supports the day-to-day management of the natural resources and public amenities of America’s national parks, national wildlife refuges, and national conservation lands. This includes funding to support visitor services and safety, law enforcement, and maintenance of facilities. Operating funds also support the primary stewardship activities needed to carry out each of the bureau’s unique resource stewardship missions. Early eradication and control of invasive species is an example of a core stewardship activity shared Department-wide. The 2019 budget includes a total of $101.1 million for invasive species activities to address significant issues such as the spread of invasive mussels and Asian Carp.

Since taking office last year, Secretary Zinke has issued three Secretarial Orders to expand access to public lands and increase hunting, fishing, and recreation opportunities nationwide. Under Secretary Zinke’s leadership, the Department opened public access to the Sabinoso Wilderness in New Mexico, which contains some of the most pristine opportunities for sportsmen in the country, expanded hunting and fishing access on 10 national wildlife refuges, successfully defended a mineral withdrawal near the Grand Canyon, and advocated for a mineral withdrawal north of Yellowstone National Park.

Visitation levels are high on public lands. Our 566 national wildlife refuges had more than 53 million visitors in 2017, and even more are expected in 2018. Focusing on the future of America’s national parks, national wildlife refuges, and BLM public lands, in 2017, Secretary Zinke established the Recreation Advisory Committee. The Committee will develop recommendations on policies and programs to expand and improve visitor infrastructure through

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**MAKING OUR PUBLIC LANDS MORE ACCESSIBLE FOR AMERICANS**

As part of National Hunting and Fishing Month, Secretary Zinke hosted a first-of-its-kind meeting with veteran service organizations to share experiences and ideas to make public lands more accessible to veterans with and without disabilities. The Hunting and Fishing Access for Veterans roundtable discussion hosted by Secretary Zinke included members of his leadership team. More than 20 veteran advocates participated, including many who specialize in hunting and fishing therapy for returning warriors.

Secretary Zinke told the group that, “Hunting and fishing present such an incredible healing opportunity for our veterans who return home with physical and emotional wounds. Unfortunately, many of our public lands are either inaccessible to individuals with various physical disabilities, or we just don’t offer programs to encourage veterans to access and use them. I want these warriors to be able to return home from their service and enjoy the very lands they fought to protect. I want to make sure hunting and fishing on public lands is easily accessible and available. Hearing ideas from leaders in the veteran community about how to achieve this goal has given my team some much-needed insight as we move forward.”

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Departmental Highlights

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public-private partnerships; implement sustainable operations embracing fair, efficient, and convenient fee collection and strategic use of collected fees; improve interpretation using technology; and create better tools and opportunities for Americans to discover their lands and waters. The Committee will consider new ideas to better leverage partnerships and technologies to ensure the magnificence of America’s treasures into the future. Secretary Zinke also created the Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council in order to more effectively gather advice and recommendations from experts on existing and proposed policies and authorities with regard to wildlife and habitat conservation.

The Secretary also established the International Wildlife Conservation Council to increase public awareness domestically regarding conservation, wildlife law enforcement, and economic benefits that result from U.S. citizens traveling abroad to hunt. The Council will advise the Secretary of the Interior on the benefits that international recreational hunting has on foreign wildlife and habitat conservation, antipoaching and illegal wildlife trafficking programs, and other ways in which international hunting benefits human populations in these areas.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund matching grants provided to States, and through States to local governments, support the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities all across the Nation. The 2019 budget continues a shift in funding that began in 2018 for NPS State Assistance grants from discretionary to mandatory funding. Starting in 2009, discretionary LWCF appropriations for the State Assistance program were supplemented by revenues from certain oil and gas leases in the Gulf of Mexico, as authorized by Section 105 of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act. Under existing law, this permanent funding for NPS State Assistance grants is expected to reach $89.3 million in 2019.

Ensuring the availability of water is central to the Department’s resource stewardship mission and is vitally important to communities across the West. The 2019 budget includes $1.0 billion for Reclamation’s water resource programs to ensure millions of customers continue to receive the water and power essential for daily life, healthy local economies, and land management. Reclamation is the largest supplier and manager of water in the 17 western States and the Nation’s second largest producer of hydroelectric power. Reclamation manages water for agricultural, municipal, and industrial uses and provides flood risk reduction and recreation for millions of people.

The 2019 budget continues support for Reclamation’s efforts to address America’s water reliability and availability by investing to modernize existing water infrastructure. To address water supply and demand, Reclamation, together with USGS, partners with States and local communities to assess future water supply and demand in key basins. This effort is part of Reclamation’s suite of WaterSMART programs. The 2019 budget includes funding to continue the WaterSMART water conservation grants and also funds Title XVI water recycling reuse research grants that support local innovation efforts to stretch water supplies.

The 2019 budget requests funding to support innovation by incentivizing research through Reclamation’s Water and Power Technology Prize Competitions. Reclamation is using prize competitions to harness the innovative capacity of the American public and private sectors to solve research and development problems related to Reclamation’s mission and stakeholder interests. Reclamation prize competitions target difficult scientific and technological problems related to infrastructure, water availability, and environmental compliance that affect water delivery and hydropower generation. The budget also includes $7.6 million for Reclamation to proactively stop the spread of invasive mussels in the West, including preventing the spread of zebra and quagga mussels into the Columbia River Basin.
Secretary Zinke has set another important priority for our land and water management programs to restore trust and be a good neighbor to the communities surrounding Interior’s lands. Being a good neighbor means honoring Interior’s commitments to localities and working closely with and listening to State and local partners in land and water management decisions. An example of this commitment is the implementation of the recommendations of a sage grouse review team to complement State efforts to improve greater sage grouse conservation and economic development on public lands. The team of representatives from 11 States with sage grouse habitat as well as officials across Interior and the U.S. Forest Service issued recommendations to strengthen communication and collaboration between States and the Federal government, as well as stakeholder engagement, to conserve and protect sage grouse and their habitat, while also ensuring conservation efforts do not impede local economic opportunities.

The 2019 budget maintains an important commitment to neighboring communities, by including $465.0 million in the discretionary request for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes program. The PILT payments offset the loss in property tax revenue for communities with significant Federal lands in their jurisdictions. The 2019 funding level for PILT ensures continuation of this important program supporting rural America.

**FULFILLING OUR TRUST AND INSULAR RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Department of the Interior upholds the Federal government’s unique trust responsibilities by fostering the government-to-government relationships between the Federal government and federally recognized Tribes, American Indians, and Alaska Natives. The U.S. also has important relationships with the affiliated insular areas including the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. 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.

Interior’s programs maintain strong and important relationships with Native and insular communities, helping to promote good 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 provide access to education.

The Department provides services directly or through contracts, grants, or compacts to 573 federally recognized Tribes with a service population of nearly two million American Indians and Alaska Natives. 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 2019 budget addresses Federal responsibilities and tribal needs related to education, social services, infrastructure, and stewardship of land, water, and other natural resources. The budget prioritizes support for programs that serve the broadest service population and proposes reductions in initiatives that are more narrowly focused. Throughout Interior’s bureaus and offices, the 2019 budget supports the Administration’s commitment to fulfill our trust and insular responsibilities by executing activities which bolster healthcare capacity, strengthen economies, fulfill U.S. compact obligations, and preserve and foster cultural heritage.

The President’s budget maintains the Administration’s strong support for the principle of tribal self-determination and efforts to strengthen tribal communities across Indian Country. The budget calls for full funding for Contract Support Costs and Tribal Grant Support Costs that Tribes incur from managing Federal Indian programs.

The budget includes $350.1 million for BIA Public Safety and Justice programs. The programs provide law enforcement, corrections, and court services to Indian communities. The programs safeguard life and property, enforce laws, maintain justice and order, and ensure that detained American Indian offenders are held in safe, secure, and humane environments. The BIA also provides technical assistance to Tribes to amend tribal legal codes to reflect provisions in the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 and the Violence Against Women Act as reauthorized.

The BIA also undertakes initiatives to promote resilient tribal communities. The 2019 budget includes $2.5 million to address the opioid crisis, which has been particularly devastating in Indian Country. This initiative will expand BIA capacity to address
the increase in drug-related activities through interdiction programs to reduce drug use, distribution, and drug-related crime. The initiative will support BIA participation in intra- and interagency initiatives that support opioid and substance abuse prevention efforts. The BIA liaisons will align, leverage, and coordinate Federal efforts and resources to assist American Indian and Alaska Native communities in achieving their goals to reduce the supply of drugs, provide opioid addiction prevention assistance, and otherwise combat the opioid crisis which the Administration has identified as a priority.

The 2019 budget request includes $741.9 million to continue support for core Indian education programs, including formula funding and operation and maintenance funding for elementary and secondary schools, and support for post-secondary programs. The request prioritizes programs that directly support educational services to Indian children at BIE schools.

The 2019 budget includes $173.0 million across the Department to honor Indian Settlement commitments. This includes $127.3 million in Reclamation and $45.6 million in BIA. The budget continues to meet Federal responsibilities outlined in enacted land and water rights claim settlements with Indian Tribes to ensure they have access to land and water to meet domestic, economic, and cultural needs. These settlements support infrastructure projects needed to improve the health and well-being of tribal members and their communities. The 2019 funding level proposed for BIA provides sufficient funding to meet imminent settlement dates. The distribution of funding between settlements for 2019 will be finalized after enactment of the 2018 appropriations.

In 2019, the Office of Insular Affairs will pursue the Department’s mission of Fulfilling Our Trust and Insular Responsibilities by executing activities which bolster healthcare capacity, strengthen island economies, and fulfill U.S. compact obligations. The proposed 2019 OIA budget is $608.0 million, with $84.1 million in current appropriations. The budget also proposes $111.0 million in discretionary Department of Defense appropriations as a transfer

### COMPACT WITH PALAU

The United States and Palau governments signed the Palau Compact Review Agreement in 2010, which proposed continued U.S. financial assistance totaling $229.0 million through 2024. Beginning with 2010, Interior discretionary appropriations have included annual economic assistance to Palau of $13.1 million a year for a total of $118.3 million in discretionary funding by the end of 2017. In 2017, Congress enacted the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act, which officially authorized the strategic agreement signed between the United States and Palau governments in 2010.

The 2019 President’s budget requests $111.0 million in the Department of Defense, to be transferred to the Department of the Interior, to fully fund the U.S. Government’s remaining commitment to Palau. These funds are provided to assist the Government of Palau in its efforts to advance the well-being of its people and in recognition of the special relationship that exists between the United States and Palau, its importance as an ally, and a key part of in the Nation’s Asia-Pacific national security strategy.

"Authorizing full funding for the agreement is an important element of the Pacific national security strategy to maintain stability in the Western Pacific Region and we look forward to continuing our work with Congress to get this job done. President Trump’s strong support for the agreement, the Department’s budget request, and Congress’ support for it all point to the strategic importance of our U.S. Territories and the Freely Associated States."

Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior
December 13, 2017
to the Department of the Interior to fund the 2010 Compact Review Agreement with Palau.

The 2019 budget includes $3.0 million to implement a phased closure of the independent agency, the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation. As part of this phased closure, the Office of the Special Trustee will assume responsibility for development of a detailed transition plan and the transfer of land management activities currently conducted by ONHIR to the Department in 2019. Interior will work with ONHIR to ensure a smooth transition of activities.

**PROTECTING OUR PEOPLE AND THE BORDER**

A key component of Interior’s land stewardship and public safety goals is management of wildland fire. The 2019 budget provides $388.1 million for wildfire suppression. The budget responsibly funds 100 percent of the rolling 10-year average cost for wildfire suppression in the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior within discretionary budget caps, and proposes a separate annual cap adjustment for wildfire suppression operations. Similar to how unanticipated funding needs for other natural disasters are addressed, the budget proposes a separate fund that will include an annual cap adjustment appropriation for wildfire suppression to ensure adequate resources are available to fight wildland fires, protect communities, and safeguard human life during the most severe wildland fire seasons. In addition, the Administration believes that meaningful forest management reforms to strengthen our ability to restore the Nation’s forests and improve their resilience to destructive wildfires should be a part of any permanent solution. This includes expediting the removal of dead and dying trees and salvage operations following a catastrophic event.

Devastating fires in California and Montana and high-profile fires in Yosemite and Glacier National Parks have caught national headlines. In addition, millions of acres of other forest and grassland also burned in 2017. As a result, Secretary Zinke directed Department of the Interior bureaus, park superintendents, and land managers at all levels to adopt more aggressive practices to prevent and combat the spread of catastrophic wildfires through robust fuels reduction and suppression techniques.

Over 12.5 million acres under Interior jurisdiction are within 50 miles of the United States-Mexico border. More than 40 percent of the border, or 820 linear miles, is managed by Interior’s land management agencies and the U.S. Forest Service. Interior is engaged with the Department of Homeland Security to increase security on the Southwest border, including 74 border miles on tribal lands primarily made up of lands located on and managed by the Tohono O’odham Nation in Arizona. Currently, 305 miles or 38 percent of Interior border lands have a vehicle or pedestrian fence or wall. Interior’s responsibilities include conservation of over 200 threatened and endangered species in the border region and over 500 species of migratory birds. Interior’s investments are focused primarily on law enforcement and security; environmental coordination and land management on national wildlife refuges, national parks, and BLM lands; protection of trust resources; and water resource management by Reclamation on the Lower Colorado. The budget includes $1.8 million to expand the Department’s Southwest Border Radio Demonstration Project.

**RESPONDING TO HURRICANE EMERGENCIES**

In response to the devastation caused by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria during 2017, Interior deployed 560 employees on 31 Federal Emergency Management Agency mission assignments in the immediate response. Prior to hurricane landfall, USGS coordinated with FEMA and State, Territory, and local partners to perform a rapid deployment of storm-tide sensors to capture the scope and extent of coastal flooding and to inform emergency response decision-making. The USGS also provided technical assistance to FEMA and partners to assess hurricane flooding, coastal erosion, and landslide impacts. Hundreds of Interior law enforcement officers deployed to evacuate, prepare, and respond to emergency needs in the hurricane zones.

Many Interior employees who were hurricane victims themselves helped to serve not only the immediate needs of Interior’s mission, but even more importantly, they also supported their communities. For example, on the island of Vieques, off the coast of Puerto Rico, FWS employees coordinated an air-drop of food and water for 4,600 residents, and NPS served as points of distribution for FEMA supplies.
The project was developed in cooperation with BLM, FWS, NPS, and the U.S. Forest Service in the Southwest border region to address Office of Inspector General-identified material deficiencies in the land mobile radio program and infrastructure.

Interior plays an important role in preparation for and addressing the aftermath of natural hazard events. The USGS provides scientific information to emergency responders, policy makers, and the public to reduce the risk of losses from a wide range of natural hazards, including earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, landslides, magnetic storms, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, and wildfires. The 2019 budget includes $117.3 million for the USGS Natural Hazards programs to maintain important nationwide monitoring networks that provide vital scientific information to emergency managers.
MODERNIZING OUR ORGANIZATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE NEXT 100 YEARS

Infrastructure Management

Interior manages an infrastructure asset portfolio with a replacement value exceeding $300 billion, ranging from elementary and secondary schools serving Indian children in the West, to highways and bridges serving the daily commuting needs of the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. Most well-known, are Interior’s iconic and unique national treasures that have priceless historical significance.

Many of these assets are deteriorating, with older assets becoming more expensive to repair and maintain in good condition. Interior owns approximately 43,000 buildings, 100,000 miles of road, and 80,000 structures—including dams, laboratories, employee housing, and irrigation and power infrastructure. Taking care of this significant asset portfolio is a persistent challenge.

The 2019 budget includes the Administration’s new Public Lands Infrastructure Fund to address repairs and improvement in national parks, national wildlife refuges, and BIE schools. The Department is taking action to increase revenue from Federal energy leasing and development over 2018 budget projections and plans to keep 50 percent of additional revenue that is not otherwise allocated for other purposes for Department infrastructure needs. Deposits to the Fund will be capped at a total of $18.0 billion. This bold investment will significantly improve the Nation’s most visible and visited public facilities that support a multibillion dollar outdoor recreation economy. The other 50 percent of increased revenues will go to the Treasury.

Interior’s deferred maintenance backlog has grown to over $16 billion in 2017 of which over $11 billion belongs to NPS. In addition to the Public Lands Infrastructure Fund, the 2019 budget for NPS includes $256.5 million in current funding for construction and deferred maintenance projects. Construction and maintenance funding across the Department totals over $1.3 billion in 2019, excluding Reclamation.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL BRIDGE

In December 2017, NPS announced a $227.0 million project to rehabilitate Arlington Memorial Bridge, a historic and critical transportation link in the Nation’s capital. The NPS, with the District of Columbia as co-signer, received a $90.0 million FASTLANE grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. In order to complete the project in a single phase, NPS will invest an additional $107.0 million of its annual transportation and construction funds. A design-build contract—meaning the contractor will both design the work and conduct the repairs—will save money and accelerate the project’s completion time. This new approach will save American taxpayers $35.0 million and one and one-half years of estimated construction time, compared to the initial rehabilitation plans.
Reclamation has a diverse infrastructure portfolio which includes dams, power plants, water pipelines, and canals in the 17 western States. Maintenance of this significant infrastructure is funded through a combination of Federal appropriations, direct revenue, customer payments, and payments from other Federal agencies. The 2019 budget for Reclamation is over $1.0 billion and includes $88.1 million for the Dam Safety Program, of which $66.5 million is requested to correct identified safety issues. Additionally, Reclamation’s budget request includes $45.0 million for extraordinary maintenance, repairs, and replacements.

Transportation assets—such as roads and bridges—account for nearly half of the deferred maintenance backlog. The Congress provides for some transportation maintenance and repair through the Federal Lands Transportation Program funded by the Department of Transportation Highway Trust Fund. This will provide more than $300 million for Interior projects in 2019. The Department also funds transportation maintenance and repair through bureau operating and construction appropriations.

The budget includes $264.6 million for construction and maintenance funding within Indian Affairs. Within this total, funding is provided for schools, law enforcement facilities, resource management infrastructure, roads, and other construction and deferred maintenance programs. Projects address needs at dams and irrigation systems to improve delivery of water to aid economic development, as well as protect lives, resources, and property. The BIA has maintenance responsibility for over 29,000 miles of bureau-owned roads and 931 bridges. Other construction programs maintain regional and agency facilities at locations where Indian programs are administered. In 2019, funding for education-related construction is focused on facilities improvement and repair and employee housing repair.

Management and Reforms

During the peak summer seasons, the Department of the Interior has nearly 70,000 employees in 2,400 locations across the United States, Puerto Rico, U.S. Territories, and Freely Associated States. Interior’s varied mission, wide geographic presence, direct public service programs, and trust and stewardship responsibilities, make it a personnel-intensive and field-oriented agency. Interior’s diverse staff works to protect and manage the Nation’s natural resources and cultural heritage, provide scientific and other information about those resources, and provide services to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and insular communities.

Secretary Zinke sets some top management objectives to better achieve his goals and lead Interior’s team forward—and implementation is underway. From day one, Secretary Zinke made improving the work experience a priority while at the Department. At the end of his first year, according to the Partnership for Public Service’s Best Places to Work report, the numbers show progress toward that goal. In 2017, Interior moved from 11th place in the rankings to 9th place among all the large Federal agencies. Key to achieving improvement is the clear direction from Departmental leadership there is zero tolerance for any type of work-place harassment. Interior is instilling a culture change through transparency, a zero tolerance policy, swift personnel actions, clear management accountability, reporting procedures for harassment conduct, training, and action plans from all bureau and office heads across the Department.

Interior is also taking bold steps to better position itself for the next 100 years. In response to the President’s Executive Order on a Comprehensive Plan for Reorganizing the Executive Branch, Secretary Zinke laid out a vision for a reorganized Department of the Interior to establish common boundaries within Interior to provide better coordination across the Department to improve mission delivery and focus resources in the field. The 2019 budget includes a total of $17.5 million for this effort. The budget also proposes additional shifts to better align functions within the Department and respond to Congressional direction related to the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians. The Department is continuing to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of BOEM and BSEE being separate organizations with the understanding that revenue collection activities need to be separate from safety.

The 2019 budget assumes efficiencies, reduces lower priority programs, and supports 59,759 full time equivalents. To accomplish this, the Department will rely on a combination of attrition and separation incentives. Presently, 16 percent of Interior’s employees are eligible to retire.

The Department annually spends nearly $3 billion to procure goods and services, over $1 billion on information technology, and over $300 million to administer acquisition and human resources services. Interior will work to achieve cost savings of
$52.7 million through more aggressive use of shared services and use of multiagency “Best in Class” procurement vehicles, such as shared contracting with other bureaus and Federal agencies. These savings will be accomplished by identifying administrative efficiencies to meet broader fiscal objectives and maintain programmatic funding. While all bureaus and offices will contribute to overall savings, specific targeted administrative savings apply to five bureaus as noted in the table below.

Reducing the Interior Department’s physical footprint and seeking ways to consolidate space and resources continues to be an important management priority. Efforts build on several multi-year actions to reduce the Department’s nationwide facilities’ footprint and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of information technology infrastructure and financial reporting capabilities.

Ensuring Interior’s cyber security strength continues to be a top priority. The 2019 budget maintains $9.9 million in the appropriated Working Capital Fund to continue to strengthen the Department’s cyber security systems and processes. The request continues support for activities launched in 2015 and supports Department of Homeland Security Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation investments to identify, isolate, and quantify cyber threats. In 2019, Interior will conduct activities that identify and manage hardware and software assets and security configuration settings; protect trusted internet connections at gateways; and introduce measures to prevent malware and phishing attacks through email.
Maintaining the integrity of Interior’s financial and business systems is another top priority. A multi-year Department-wide effort successfully implemented the Financial and Business Management System, a modern, integrated, and secure system supporting better management, accountability, and transparency in budget execution, financial management, acquisition, and financial assistance; fleet and facilities management; and property management. The system continues to deliver promised improvements in functionality, consistency in reporting, standardized internal controls and processes, and improved data availability.

The 2019 budget includes $46.8 million for the Financial and Business Management System to maintain the system, avoid technical obsolescence, and implement high priority improvements to support Interior’s operations. The FBMS tool continues to improve data quality and consistency across the Department, enables informed management decisions, and decreases manual processes.

The Department of the Interior’s 2019 budget request maintains core functions important to the American people and supports transformation the Department needs to accomplish more effective management over the next 100 years. It reflects tough choices to prioritize and focus limited resources where investments have the most impact while continuing to deliver access and services that are critical to Americans. Achieving success in all of Interior’s important responsibilities for the American people is the Department’s primary focus. Interior is committed to taking necessary actions to better accomplish our mission.
The Department’s 2019 budget request totals $11.7 billion in current authority, excluding the budget proposal to transfer $111.0 million in current appropriations from the Department of Defense to the Office of Insular Affairs for the Palau Compact. Of this, $10.6 billion is requested for programs funded by the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, excluding the Palau Compact transfer. The 2019 request for the Bureau of Reclamation and Central Utah Project Completion Act, funded in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, is $1.1 billion in current appropriations. In 2019, Interior will generate receipts of $11.2 billion. The amounts reflected here include an additional $367.1 million provided in the Budget Policy Addendum for 2019 including an increase for the National Park Service, Operation of the National Park System of $270.9 million, an increase for Payments in Lieu of Taxes of $68.1 million, and an adjustment to the LWCF Contract Authority Cancellation of $28.1 million. These changes are not reflected in the President’s Budget Documents.
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

FACTS

**Land** – Interior manages more than 480 million acres or about 20 percent of the land area of the United States, 700 million acres of subsurface minerals, and nearly 760 million acres of submerged land in seven marine national monuments. The Department has jurisdiction over 1.7 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf.

**Parks, Refuges, and Public Lands** – Interior manages 417 units of the national park system, 566 national wildlife refuges, 72 fish hatcheries, and one historic fish hatchery as well as 21 national conservation areas and similarly designated areas, and 27 national monuments in BLM’s national conservation lands.

**People** – Interior has nearly 70,000 employees located in approximately 2,400 locations across the United States, Puerto Rico, U.S. Territories, and Freely Associated States.

**Volunteers** – Interior benefits from approximately 580,000 volunteers who provide more than 10 million hours of service, valued at an estimated $243 million per year.

**Conservation** – Over 488,000 acres of high-priority abandoned coal mine sites have been reclaimed through the OSM’s Abandoned Mine Lands program. The FWS acts to protect over 2,300 endangered and threatened species, more than 1,660 of which are in the United States.

**Revenues** – Interior collects revenues from energy, minerals, grazing, timber, lands sales, and other revenue producing activities. Interior’s estimated revenue projections in 2019 are $11.2 billion.

**Water** – The Department is the largest supplier and manager of water in the 17 western States. Reclamation manages 492 dams and 338 reservoirs that deliver water to 31 million people and one out of every five western farmers irrigating 10 million acres of farmland.

**Energy** – Interior manages lands, subsurface rights, and offshore areas that produce approximately 20 percent of the Nation’s energy, including 17 percent of natural gas, 26 percent of oil, and 44 percent of coal. Federal lands also host projects that account for a significant portion of the Nation’s renewable energy generating capacity, including 15 percent of hydropower, four percent of windpower, 42 percent of geothermal energy, and 34 percent of solar energy.

**Visitation** – Annually, more than 67 million visits are made to BLM public lands, nearly 324 million visits to national park units, more than 50 million visits to national wildlife refuges and fish hatcheries, and more than 30 million visits to Reclamation recreation sites.

**American Indians** – The Department maintains relationships with 573 federally recognized Tribes in the lower 48 States and Alaska, and provides support to a service population of nearly two million people. The BIE provides education services to 47,000 individual students in 23 States attending 183 elementary and secondary schools and dormitories and supports 33 BIE-funded community colleges, universities, and post-secondary schools. There are 96 BIA-funded corrections programs and 190 bureau and tribal law enforcement programs.

**American Indian Trust** – Interior has responsibility for the largest land trust in the world. Today, the Indian trust encompasses approximately 56 million surface acres and 59 million acres of subsurface mineral estates. On these lands, Interior manages nearly 151,000 leases for uses such as farming, grazing, and oil and gas production on behalf of individual Indians and Tribes. The Office of the Special Trustee manages approximately $5 billion of trust funds held in about 3,500 trust accounts for approximately 250 Indian Tribes, and about 404,000 open Individual Indian Monies accounts.

**Science** – Interior provides unbiased, multi-discipline science for use in understanding, mapping, and managing natural resources and hazards. Data are available to the public from over 8,200 streamgages and 3,100 earthquake sensors. Interior also is responsible for operating two earth observation satellites—the Landsat 7 and 8 missions. The USGS has provided Landsat data products from its archives at no cost since 2008. In 2017, more than 22 million scenes were downloaded. The USGS publishing warehouse contains more than 155,000 USGS-authored citations with full text access to over 82,000 USGS publications.