



Legislative Proposals

President Trump is right to call for a robust infrastructure plan that rebuilds our parks, refuges, and Indian schools. Our public lands are being loved to death, but the real heartbreak is the condition of the schools in Indian Country. We can and must do better for these young scholars. This is not a republican or democrat issue, this is an American issue. I'm ready to work with anyone in Congress who is willing to get the work done.

*Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior
February 12, 2018*

The 2019 President's budget includes legislative proposals affecting revenues and available budget authority that require action by the Congress. These proposals provide an important contribution to the Administration's policy goals, including achieving a fair return to the American taxpayer from Federal resources.

Public Lands Infrastructure Fund – The 2019 budget launches the Administration's Public Lands Infrastructure Fund to address repairs and improvements in national parks, national wildlife refuges, and Bureau of Indian Education-funded schools. The Department is taking action to increase revenue from Federal energy leasing and development over 2018 budget projections and will keep 50 percent of additional revenue that is not allocated for other purposes, for Department infrastructure needs. This will not impact revenue for important purposes such as the Reclamation Fund, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Historic Preservation Fund, and State and local revenue sharing payments. These receipts will be derived from energy mineral leasing, e.g., oil, gas and coal, under the Mineral Leasing Act and Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, as well as solar, wind, and geothermal development on public lands and offshore areas. Receipts above the 2018 baseline will be deposited into the Fund for 10 years and will be capped at a total of \$18.0 billion. The budget estimates this initiative will result in \$6.8 billion in expenditures from the Fund over 10 years. This investment will significantly improve the Nation's most visible and visited public facilities that support a multi-billion dollar outdoor recreation economy. By investing in BIE-funded schools, we are fulfilling commitments to provide a safe learning environment for Indian

children. The other 50 percent of increased revenues will go to the Treasury to support deficit reduction.

Bureau of Reclamation Title Transfer – The Administration proposes legislation to better facilitate title transfer of Reclamation facilities to non-Federal entities when the transfers are beneficial to all parties. This proposal will allow local water managers to make their own decisions to improve water management at the local level, while allowing Reclamation to focus management efforts on projects with a greater Federal nexus.

Reduce Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act Account Balances – The budget proposes to reduce \$230.0 million in unobligated balances from the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act program over a three-year period. The SNPLMA, enacted in 1998, authorizes the Bureau of Land Management to sell specified public lands around Las Vegas, Nevada, and retain the proceeds for capital improvements and various conservation, restoration, and recreational purposes in the State. The SNPLMA program is not proposed for elimination; the proposal will only reduce a portion of the over \$600 million in remaining balances and will not affect any projects currently identified for support.

Reauthorize the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act – The budget assumes permanent reauthorization of FLTFA's land sale authority, allowing Interior to dispose of lands with low conservation values and use the proceeds to acquire lands with high conservation values, consistent with the original FLTFA mandate. Also consistent with the prior authorization, 80 percent of the receipts will

be spent in the same State in which the funds are generated. The FLTFA authority provides Interior with the flexibility to manage its land portfolio to improve access to public lands or to acquire inholdings within existing Interior areas. This proposal is estimated to result in savings of \$36 million over 10 years due to the lag between receipts collection and expenditure.

Recreation Fee Program – The budget proposes to permanently reauthorize the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, which expires in September 2019. As a precaution, the budget also proposes appropriations language to provide a two-year extension of FLREA through September 2021. The revenues collected by Interior from these recreation fees—\$318.8 million in 2017—are an important source of funding for land management operations, maintenance, and improvements to recreation facilities on public lands.

EPAct Geothermal Payments to Counties – The budget proposes to restore the disposition of Federal geothermal leasing revenues to the historical formula of 50 percent to the States and 50 percent to the U.S. Treasury by repealing Section 224(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. That section changed the distribution to direct 50 percent to States, 25 percent to counties, and 25 percent to the Federal government. The 25 percent share for county payments is inconsistent with long-standing revenue-

sharing practices and reduces the return to Federal taxpayers from geothermal leases on Federal lands. The proposal is estimated to result in savings of \$40 million over 10 years.

Land and Water Conservation Fund – The LWCF receipts authorization expires at the end of fiscal year 2018 and the Administration will review options for reauthorization.

Wildland Fire Suppression Disaster Cap Adjustment – The budget responsibly funds 100 percent of the rolling 10-year average cost for wild-fire 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. The cap proposal is described separately in the *2019 President’s Budget Appendix*.