

# Departmental Overview



“We must use every lever at our disposal to make necessary progress. This Nation has the opportunity of a lifetime to strengthen our country, fight climate change, and improve our way of life for generations to come. To Build Back Better, we need a strong annual budget for the Department.”

Secretary Deb Haaland  
April 20, 2021

The Department of the Interior (DOI) plays an integral role in conserving and managing the Nation’s natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people. Interior is the steward of 20 percent of America’s lands, managing national parks, national wildlife refuges, and other public lands. Interior works closely with States, Tribal nations, and other partners to help accomplish shared natural and cultural resource management goals across the country.

Key to this work is science. Science, resource and hazard monitoring, and predictive modeling tools inform the evidence-based decisions of resource management, disaster preparedness officials, and on-the-ground adaptive management—not only of Interior lands but also in local communities throughout the Nation.

Interior’s wide-ranging programs create economic opportunities and jobs for the American people. As reflected in the DOI Economic Contributions Report for Fiscal Year 2019, Interior’s mission activities supported an estimated 1.9 million jobs and \$336 billion in economic output. Interior has an important and unique mission to uphold and honor the Nation’s trust responsibilities and commitments to Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities to help them prosper.

The Administration’s 2022 budget request will help implement the President’s ambitious vision

to lift up the Nation in this unprecedented time by addressing the climate crisis, providing much-needed resources to Tribal nations, restoring balance on public lands and waters, advancing environmental justice, and investing in a clean energy future. The 2022 budget lays out the important role Interior will play to accomplish the Administration’s goals to move our country forward. This request includes the President’s American Jobs Plan, which provides a longer term strategy to create millions of good-paying union jobs, rebuild our country’s infrastructure, and position America to out-compete others on the global stage.

## The 2022 Budget

The Department’s 2022 budget totals \$17.6 billion in current authority (\$17.4 billion in net discretionary authority)—an increase of \$2.5 billion, or 17 percent, from the 2021 enacted level. An additional \$330.0 million is available through a budget cap adjustment to ensure necessary funds are available in the event of a severe fire season without harming other Interior programs. The budget also provides an estimated \$9.5 billion in permanent funding in 2022. Within the increase for 2022, \$218.6 million will be used to cover fixed-cost increases, such as rent and Federal salary adjustments.

The Administration’s support for Interior’s discretionary programs in 2022 reflects the Biden-Harris

Administration's commitment to—

- strengthen climate resilience and conservation partnerships;
- create jobs and invest in healthy lands, waters, and economies of energy communities across the country;
- increase renewable energy production on public lands and waters to support a carbon pollution-free power sector by 2035;
- advance science and transparency across the Department and better incorporate scientific information into evidence-driven programmatic decisions;
- honor and strengthen commitments to Tribal nations by increasing investments in self-determination and self-government programs to bolster Tribal sovereignty;
- advance equity and racial justice and support underserved communities; and
- rebuild core functions and capacities within Interior, which have diminished in recent years.

Interior plays an important role in the President's plan to reinvest in the foundations of the Nation's strength. The 2022 budget addresses the need to invest in America at this critical time, when the Nation faces challenges from a pandemic, an economic downturn, climate change, and a reckoning with racial injustice. As such, Interior's 2022 budget invests in America's future. Programs focus on adaptive management and increasing resilience to the changing climate; creating jobs and economic development; using science to inform; strengthening Tribal nations' self-determination; expanding inclusion of historically underrepresented communities; promoting environmental justice; delivering Interior's core services; and providing effective stewardship of America's national treasures.

The 2022 budget establishes a new baseline for the resources necessary to meet the commitments of today while addressing the issues that will define the future. To better present the 2022 budget and track funding and programs over time, the budget

identifies baseline funding associated with specific priorities, including climate resilience, climate science, conservation, and clean energy. These baselines reflect program funding for activities primarily focused on a specific Administration priority, although many programs support multiple priorities. These baseline amounts are cited throughout the Budget in Brief to provide greater context for the priority investments in the 2022 budget.

Consistent with congressional direction, the 2022 President's Budget allocates mandatory funding available through the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA). That funding includes up to \$1.6 billion for deferred maintenance projects in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Park Service (NPS), and the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE). Separately, the budget allocates \$681.9 million for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) programs, including proposals for \$138.8 million for voluntary land acquisition projects. Funding authorized through GAOA for both Legacy Restoration Fund deferred maintenance projects and LWCF activities are subject to a 5.7-percent sequestration reduction beginning in 2022.

The President's Budget includes legislative proposals to implement the American Jobs Plan. In addition, the budget proposes technical reclassifications to shift important Tribal funding requirements from discretionary to mandatory funding starting in 2023. This shift will cover required funding for Contract Support Costs, payments for

#### DOI CARES ACT FUNDING

DOI received **\$910.0 million** through the CARES Act to respond to impacts from COVID-19:

- **\$453.0 million** for the Bureau of Indian Affairs
- **\$222.8 million** for the Bureau of Indian Education\*
- **\$157.4 million** to the Office of the Secretary for a variety of DOI operations
- **\$55.0 million** for the Office of Insular Affairs
- **\$20.1 million** for the Bureau of Reclamation—Water Resources
- **\$1.0 million** for the Office of Inspector General
- **\$500,000** for the Central Utah Project Completion Act

\* Includes \$69.0 million directly appropriated to Interior and \$153.8 million transferred from the Department of Education.

## COVID-19-Related Appropriations

The coronavirus pandemic that began in early 2020 has tested the ability of all Federal agencies to meet their mission requirements, ensure the safety of their customers and employees and pivot to a new "normal" that includes large numbers of employees working from home, face new project management and planning challenges, and respond to ever-changing circumstances. Employees throughout the Department have been heavily engaged from the beginning of the pandemic to constantly adapt to evolving circumstances and implement new mitigation strategies to accomplish the Department's mission.

Congress appropriated almost \$3.2 billion to support the Department's efforts to address the coronavirus pandemic. These funds are supporting Indian Country and Insular Areas, keeping Federal lands safely accessible to the public, protecting the public from wildfire, providing water and power, and helping ensure the health and safety of the American people and Interior's employees.

More than \$2.8 billion of the \$3.2 billion was appropriated to address pandemic conditions in Indian Country. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) provided direct aid to Tribal nations, disbursing emergency aid to Tribal governments, welfare assistance programs, Tribal colleges and universities, BIE schools, and other supportive services to help address on-the-ground COVID-19-related emerging needs in Tribal communities.

Indian Affairs ensured that funds provided by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act; P.L. 116-136) supporting education in Indian Country emphasized the importance of local

decision making and providing schools with flexibility to address their immediate needs, recognizing that a flexible approach was needed due to the diverse geographic locations, student populations, school conditions, and connectivity infrastructure and capacities. On March 27, 2020, the CARES Act was enacted, and \$756.0 million in supplemental funding was appropriated directly to the Department of the Interior to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus domestically or internationally. Another \$153.8 million was appropriated for Indian education through the Department of Education, which transferred the funding to the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) for BIE-operated and -funded elementary and secondary schools and Tribal colleges and universities. Enacted on December 27, 2020, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260) further directed the Department of Education to transfer \$409.4 million from the Education Stabilization Fund to BIE for the schools.

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan (P.L. 117-2) was enacted, and three Interior bureaus received \$1.9 billion in permanent funding for COVID-19 support efforts. BIA received \$900.0 million for government assistance, public safety and justice, social services, child welfare assistance, Tribal housing, and potable water to Tribal nations. BIE received \$850.0 million for programs and activities operated or funded by BIE, for bureau-funded schools, and for Tribal colleges or universities. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service received \$105.0 million for several activities related to the pandemic, including wildlife disease outbreaks, early detection of diseases that have capacity to jump the species barrier, wildlife inspections, and addressing wildlife trafficking.

Tribal Leases under Section 105(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, and enacted Indian Water Settlements.

The 2022 budget proposes appropriations language to establish a new Energy Community Revitalization Program (ECRP), which will fund the reclamation of abandoned mine lands and orphaned oil and gas wells on both Federal and non-Federal lands. Complementing the ECRP, the budget proposes new language to support an offshore oil and gas infrastructure decommissioning program in the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE).

Language is proposed to establish a modified Indian Land Consolidation program within the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and to expand

Tribal land acquisition authority. The budget also includes language to clarify eligibility for land-into-trust authority following the Supreme Court's decision in *Carcieri v. Salazar*. The budget extends provisions regarding the Wild Horse and Burro Program, limiting oil and gas development activities in the defined withdrawal area in Chaco Canyon, and Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act fee authority.

### Addressing Climate Challenges and Building Resilience

As steward for 20 percent of the Nation's lands and waters and with the responsibility to uphold the Nation's commitments to American Indians and Alaska Natives, Interior's programs must





Isle au Haut in Acadia National Park.

inherently focus on climate challenges. Similar to farmers, ranchers, community planners, and disaster preparedness professionals across the country, Interior land and resource managers are seeing changes on the ground and are working to address them. Increasing drought, higher risk of severe storms and extreme wildfires, changes to where species live and migrate and the diseases they face, warmer water temperatures, and new threats from invasive species are among the tangible challenges land and resource managers face right now.

The 2022 budget recognizes that this work is an increasing part of Interior's core mission—part of what needs to be done to ensure America's natural treasures are resilient in the face of these changes and remain special places for generations to come. Land and wildlife stewardship, restoration, conservation, and associated activities are the foundation of so much of what Interior does, and activities that address specific climate effects, increase understanding of climate, or increase resilience are hard to distinguish from core mission activities. Addressing climate change is a high priority in the 2022 budget. The budget includes a broad portfolio of activities under the category of climate, which includes investments to conserve and adaptively

manage natural resources, increase understanding of how natural resources are changing and what that means, build resilience to protect communities and lands from significant impacts, and contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases. The 2022 budget includes funding for mission-critical activities—in land and water conservation, reclamation and clean energy, climate science, and programs inclusive of Tribal nations and underserved communities—that support the President's climate priorities.

### **Working Together to Make America's Lands and Waters Healthier and More Resilient**

Conservation, adaptive management, and resource stewardship are central to Interior's mission, and these programs will play a big role in advancing the President's climate goals. The 2022 budget includes increases to bolster natural resource management across the Department, expand the application of science to solve resource problems on the ground, and engage more partners to make America's lands and waters more resilient to the changing climate. Investing in healthier lands and waters will also help to mitigate carbon emissions—naturally.



Throughout the 2022 budget are increases in Interior’s ongoing natural resource management programs, which support restoration, conservation, stewardship improvements, and, in some cases, species recovery on Federal and Tribal lands. More than \$870.0 million of the requested increase in this budget directly supports better land management and conservation through transparent, evidence-driven approaches. Complementing that funding are additional investments in Wildland Fire Management for Fuels Management and Burned Area Rehabilitation. These increases improve overall land stewardship and healthy lands, as well as climate resilience. The budget also includes significant funding across the Department for water resource programs to address water availability issues.

*The America the Beautiful Initiative*—A key component of the Administration’s investment strategy to address climate impacts on the ground through land stewardship and conservation is leveraging the power of Americans across the country. The Administration recently released a preliminary report to the National Climate Task Force—*Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful*—recommending a 10-year, locally led campaign to conserve and restore America’s lands and waters. The report provides an overarching framework to implement the President’s goal to conserve 30 percent of U.S. land and waters by 2030, which will help address the climate crisis and its impacts on nature, improve equitable access to the outdoors, and strengthen the economy. The report recognizes and celebrates the voluntary conservation efforts of farmers, ranchers, and forest owners; the leadership of sovereign Tribal nations in caring for lands, waters, and wildlife; the contributions and stewardship traditions of America’s hunters, anglers, and fishing communities; and the vital importance of investing in playgrounds, trails, and open space in park-deprived communities.

The America the Beautiful initiative is intended to serve as a call to action to support locally led conservation and restoration efforts across public, private, State, and Tribal lands and waters. The initiative welcomes all communities wishing to steward their lands and waters, boost the economy,

and support jobs. The guiding principles—which include a commitment to collaboration, support for voluntary and locally led conservation, and honoring Tribal sovereignty and private property rights—are essential to building and maintaining broad support, enthusiasm, and trust for this effort. Supporting these principles, the 2022 budget includes increases across Interior to support local partnership programs. For example, FWS increases support voluntary conservation efforts by private landowners through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program, Migratory Bird Joint Ventures, and Candidate Conservation Agreements to prevent listing of at-risk species.

*Land and Water Conservation Fund*—Thanks to broad bipartisan support of GAOA in 2020, \$900.0 million in mandatory LWCF resources is made available annually for conservation and recreation activities managed by Interior and the U.S. Forest Service. In 2021, Interior will provide \$420.8 million



Kings River in Kings Canyon National Park, CA.

to States and other partners for local conservation and recreation programs through non-Federal grants and \$280.7 million for Federal programs, including voluntary land acquisition and easement programs in the BLM, FWS, and NPS. In May 2021, Interior awarded \$150.0 million to local communities through the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership grant program. Funded through the LWCF, this competitive program enables urban communities to create and reinvigorate outdoor recreation spaces and connect people and the outdoors in economically underserved communities. The LWCF programs directly support land and resource conservation and increase access to outdoor recreation across America.

In 2022, Interior proposes to allocate \$700.9 million for LWCF programs, which includes \$19.0 million from discretionary funds. The 2022 budget estimates an additional \$128.3 million will be available for State LWCF grants as a result of revenue derived from certain offshore oil and gas sales in the Gulf of Mexico. A detailed list of 2022 LWCF land acquisition projects is provided in Appendix F.

## Tackling Climate Challenges

*Wildland Fire Management*—Preventing and managing wildfires is vitally important to protect people, communities, and our natural and cultural resources. As the severity and frequency of wildfires continue to change with the climate, the need to address these challenges increases. The season for actively burning wildfires is now year-round. Wildfires are also becoming larger. From 2000 to 2019, the average number of acres burned was double the number from 1980 to 1999.

The risk from wildfire has increased as more people move into areas adjacent to wildlands commonly referred to as the wildland urban interface (WUI). The WUI continues to grow at a rate of 2 million acres a year, and now 46 million homes are in the WUI, creating an extraordinary increased risk to the public and the potential for injury and loss of life as wildfires encroach on communities.

The 2022 budget includes \$1.1 billion in discretionary funding to support Interior's Wildland Fire Management program, an increase of \$117.8



Burning as part of the Northeast Entrance fuels project in Yellowstone.

million from the 2021 enacted level. The budget includes \$383.7 million for wildfire response, and another \$330.0 million is available in the event of a severe fire season. The 2022 budget invests \$304.3 million in Fuels Management activities, an increase of \$84.4 million, to reduce the risk of wildland fire by removing the accumulated vegetation on lands that fuels fires, increases their intensity, and adds to carbon emissions.

The 2022 budget increases funding for Fire Preparedness by \$8.4 million to continue support for the fire readiness of Interior's workforce and to help ensure a high initial attack success rate in fire response. Together, the proposed increases for the Fuels Management and Preparedness programs will put Interior's fire program on a more proactive footing to not only manage wildfires as they occur but to help prevent them from taking hold, growing in severity, adding to carbon emissions, and threatening people and communities. The 2022 budget also includes \$40.5 million for Burned Area Rehabilitation, an increase of \$20.0 million from



the 2021 enacted level, to address the early phases of restoration of landscapes damaged by wildfire that are unlikely to recover naturally. The budget includes \$8.0 million to invest in climate science through the Joint Fire Science Program.

*Water Challenges*—The American West faces serious and sustained water challenges. Wide-spread drought historic in both duration and severity, increased populations, aging infrastructure, and environmental requirements all strain existing water resources. Adequate and safe water supplies are fundamental to the health, economy, and security of the country.

In April 2021, the Biden-Harris Administration announced the formation of an Interagency Working Group to address worsening drought conditions in the West and support farmers, Tribes, and communities affected by ongoing water shortages. The Working Group will be co-chaired by the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture to build upon existing resources to help coordinate across the Federal Government, working in partnership with State, local, and Tribal governments to address the needs of communities suffering from

drought-related impacts. The Working Group will strive to identify immediate financial and technical assistance for affected irrigators and Tribes. Development of longer term measures to respond to climate change, build more resilient communities, and protect the natural environment will also be a priority.

Interior’s Bureau of Reclamation brings water to more than 31 million people in the West, and provides one out of five western farmers with irrigation water for 10 million acres of farmland that produce 60 percent of the Nation’s vegetables and 25 percent of its fruits and nuts. As a water management agency, Reclamation’s operations and missions are directly affected by the changing climate. Reclamation also manages a suite of water conservation, recycling, and planning programs to help communities mitigate drought and climate change impacts. The 2022 budget includes \$54.1 million for Reclamation’s WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America’s Resources for Tomorrow) programs, which work cooperatively with States, Tribes, and local communities as they plan for and implement actions to increase water supply. Cumulatively,



Hungry Horse Dam in Northwest Montana.

Reclamation's WaterSMART and Title XVI-funded projects from 2010 to 2020 are expected to have resulted in water savings of 1,483,660 acre-feet. One acre-foot, or 325,851 gallons of water, supplies enough water for a family of four for one year.

The 2022 budget also includes \$20.0 million to continue construction on the Central Utah Project authorized by the Central Utah Project Completion Act. This funding will create and sustain good-paying union jobs to build modern and sustainable water infrastructure at the Utah Lake Drainage Basin Water Delivery System. It will also increase construction of projects to offset the impacts to fish, wildlife, and related recreation resources caused by the Central Utah Project and other Federal reclamation projects in Utah.

*Building Resilience Through Better Science*—The Department also plays an important role in preparing for and addressing the aftermath of natural hazard events. For instance, USGS produces earthquake-monitoring information indicating the severity of events and data essential to assessing the potential of further risks. USGS's scientific information is used by emergency responders, policymakers, and the public to address the risk of loss from a wide range of natural hazards, including earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, landslides, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, wildfires, geomagnetic storms, and drought. For example, the USGS National Seismic Hazard Model for the lower 48 States informs community planning and building code standards, and this request will enable a full 50-State update in 2023. The 2022 budget includes \$207.7 million, a \$32.3 million increase from 2021, for the USGS Natural Hazards programs. This funding maintains important nationwide monitoring networks and technical assistance that provide vital scientific information to emergency managers across the Nation and around the world.

The 2022 budget also includes \$112.7 million, a \$12.0 million increase from 2021, for the USGS Groundwater and Streamflow Information Program, including streamgages. This program maintains a nationwide network of streamflow and water-level information from more than 11,000 sites. The data are available online—most in near-real time—to

meet the needs of natural resource managers, scientists, and community emergency managers. A component of this program is the Next Generation Water Observing System (NGWOS). NGWOS activities in the Upper Colorado River, initiated in 2019, are providing an opportunity to improve regional water prediction in snowmelt-dominated systems facing long-term drought situations. When fully implemented, the NGWOS will provide a foundation of intensive open-monitoring data from 10 medium-sized water basins across the United States. These data will be used to advance models and develop information to help other areas anticipate water shortages more accurately and react to water hazards more quickly.

### **Creating Jobs to Meet Environmental and Energy Challenges**

Interior programs contributed an estimated 1.9 million jobs to the U.S. economy in 2019, as reflected in the Department's Economic Contributions Report. Those jobs are associated with Interior's energy and minerals, recreation, tourism, and irrigation and other water-related activities. Interior's 2022 budget includes new investments to create good jobs, rebuild the country's infrastructure, address the climate crisis, and position the United States to out-compete other countries.

*Reclamation Jobs in Energy Communities*—The 2022 budget includes \$461.3 million, an increase of \$300.0 million, to put the energy industry to work plugging orphan oil and gas wells and cleaning up abandoned mines. The initiative will create good-paying union jobs and improve the environmental quality of energy communities by addressing serious safety hazards and risks from associated air, water, or other environmental damage.

The budget includes increased funding for reclamation of abandoned mines and oil and gas wells on Interior lands; decommissioning of abandoned offshore oil and gas infrastructure; and a new program, the ECRP, to be managed within the Office of the Secretary.

In BLM, the initiative includes \$93.7 million, an increase of \$50.8 million, \$26.6 million for oil and



## Abandoned Mine Land and Economic Revitalization Programs at Work

The Pittsburgh Authority Innovation Campus project received \$500,000 from the Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) program, which was combined with \$517,000 of traditional Title IV AML funding and \$31.0 million from other sources, to reclaim more than 54 acres of abandoned mine land, including two dangerous highwalls. Once the site was reclaimed in 2019, the Allegheny County Airport Authority joined with the Pittsburgh International Airport to begin developing the Pittsburgh Authority Innovation Campus, with office space, research, and development facilities; a hotel and convention center; and corporate airplane hangars.

The Patriot Gardens Project in Nicholas County, WV, is one of the most extensive project proposals in West Virginia approved for AMLER funding. The project received \$5.3 million through AMLER, which was combined with \$2.5 million from other sources. The West Virginia National Guard is partnering with multiple organizations to reintroduce the Golden Delicious apple tree to the area and set up a series of fruit tree orchards on abandoned mine lands to diversify the local economy. This project will plant

and maintain approximately 97,000 trees and construct a 50,000-square-foot processing and storage facility, commercial greenhouses, and a research station. Further expansion of this site is expected to reach a total of 1 million trees and an estimated 379 to 481 jobs once the facility is at full production.



Patriot Gardens Experimental Orchard Project in Nicholas County, WV.

gas well cleanup, and \$24.2 million for the reclamation of abandoned hard-rock mine sites on BLM lands. Within BSEE, the budget includes \$30.0 million to address offshore oil and gas decommissioning needs. Separately, the NPS request includes an additional \$10.0 million for abandoned mine land cleanup in park areas.

To address abandoned coal mine cleanup, the 2022 budget includes \$165.0 million, an increase of \$50.0 million, for the Abandoned Mine Land and Economic Revitalization (AMLER) program in the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. The program provides grants to the six Appalachian States with the highest amount of unfunded Priority 1 and Priority 2 Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) sites and the three Tribes with AML programs. Grants are awarded for projects that accelerate the remediation of AML sites and encourage economic and community development.

The budget includes \$169.2 million for the new ECRP, which will include \$75.0 million to address reclamation and restoration within Interior and also provide \$70.0 million for assistance and support to States and \$20.0 million for reclamation on Tribal lands. The program will provide technical

assistance and funding to inventory abandoned mines and oil and gas wells and to support reclamation projects.

*Civilian Climate Corps*—The Civilian Climate Corps (CCC) is an important jobs initiative that draws on America’s strength to work together and build back better to revitalize public lands, infrastructure, and communities—and, in doing so, create jobs. The idea builds from the Civilian Conservation Corps, which put hundreds of thousands of young people to work on public and private lands, providing them with jobs and training to tackle the crises of the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression. The President calls for a broad CCC initiative in the American Jobs Plan, which stretches across Federal agencies and non-Federal partners throughout the country.

Complementing this broader effort, Interior’s discretionary 2022 budget includes \$85.5 million for CCC work on Interior’s lands. In 2022, the CCC program will build upon existing programs and partnerships that share the same objectives—to tackle climate change on the ground, provide a living wage, provide skills and a pathway to employment, and reflect the diversity of America.

## Partnership and Apprenticeship Programs at Work

Interior is an active partner with national and local service organizations across the country to provide meaningful work, service, and learning opportunities for young adults, including veterans.

The National Park Service (NPS) Traditional Trades Apprenticeship Program provides hands-on, historic preservation trade skills training during an intensive 5-month learning-while-working experience. Participants are part of a small crew team—led by an NPS preservation specialist—working to preserve historic buildings and features. After completing an intensive 2-week basic training course, crew members put those skills to work using tools and materials common in the preservation of older buildings and structures. The program is open to young adults 18 to 30 years old and veterans 18 to 35 years old. In addition to acquiring uniquely sought-after skills, upon completion, participants are eligible for Public Lands Corps hiring authority due to their service on public lands.

Every summer, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Northwoods Stewardship Center (VT), partner to hire local youth who work at National Wildlife Refuges across New England. The Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge will host a Youth Conservation Corps team this summer in Wells, ME. The crew team will work hard at activities including trail maintenance, improving wildlife habitat, studying and protecting wildlife populations, removing invasive species, and addressing water quality issues.

Since 2012, DOI's Bureau of Land Management has partnered with Meade County, SD, providing funding for the "Veteran in the Woods" initiative. This program trains former members of the U.S. military in the basics of wildland firefighting and helps them successfully reenter the civilian workforce. Over 9 years, the program has trained 67 veterans, who have reduced the risk of wildfire by treating 485 acres for defensible spacing on more than 100 properties in the Northern Black Hills.

*Clean Energy Jobs of the Future*—In January 2021, President Biden issued Executive Order (EO) 14008, *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*, which lays out a governmentwide approach to reduce climate pollution in every sector of the economy. The EO directs the Secretary of the Interior to complete a comprehensive review and reconsideration of Federal oil and gas permitting and leasing practices and to pause new oil and gas leases while the review is underway. This directive is limited to leasing; it does not affect production, plans, or permit applications submitted under valid, existing leases; such applications continue to

be reviewed and approved. Roughly 7,000 permits are currently approved but unused.

The review will consider ways to improve the stewardship of these public resources as the Nation transitions to a clean and equitable energy future that supports sustainable, good-paying jobs. The 2022 budget includes \$348.3 million in discretionary funding for onshore and offshore oil and gas programs and \$243.6 million for safe offshore energy operations. This amount includes \$26.6 million in the BLM Oil and Gas Management program to clean up orphaned oil and gas wells onshore and \$30.0 million for BSEE to address offshore orphaned infrastructure.

The EO also instructs the Secretary of the Interior to review siting and permitting processes on public lands and in offshore waters to identify steps to increase renewable energy production. The 2022 budget includes \$249.1 million, an increase of \$132.8 million from the 2021 enacted level, to accelerate and expand activities that support good-paying jobs and clean energy deployment. The funding primarily supports infrastructure permitting for onshore and offshore renewable energy projects such as solar, wind, wave, and geothermal.

As part of a White House forum with Federal agencies, States, industry, and labor in March 2021, the Administration announced a commitment by the Departments of the Interior, Energy, and Commerce to increase renewable energy development on Federal waters and set a target to deploy 30 gigawatts (30,000 megawatts) of offshore wind by 2030, creating nearly 80,000 jobs.

Work is already underway to meet this ambitious goal. In the first months of the Administration, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) approved the first major offshore wind project in U.S. waters, the 800 MW Vineyard Wind project, which will create 3,600 jobs and generate enough power for 400,000 homes and businesses. BOEM also issued a lease for the first wave energy research project in Federal waters off the U.S. West coast, identified a new Wind Energy Area in the New York Bight, and announced intent for environmental reviews for projects offshore New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts.



The 2022 budget includes \$74.2 million for BOEM's offshore renewable energy programs, an increase of \$23.0 million from the 2021 enacted level. Funding supports a ramp-up in planning for potential offshore wind energy areas, and reviews of proposed projects and technical plans. To meet the Administration's ambitious goals, BOEM estimates it will need to complete reviews of at least 16 construction and operating plans by 2025 to support 19 gigawatts of clean energy.

In anticipation of large-scale development of offshore wind energy on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), BSEE is preparing to take on new responsibilities with respect to renewable energy workplace and process safety management, environmental protection, and decommissioning and site restoration. BSEE is also assuming safety and environmental enforcement operational functions for Federal OCS offshore renewable energy development. In 2022, the BSEE budget includes \$9.8 million, an increase of \$9.0 million, to establish a core



Block Island Wind Farm, New Shoreham, RI.

foundational program to support the development of a safe, robust, and environmentally responsible offshore wind industry in the United States. The funding will enable timely and rigorous industry plan reviews, initiate a robust compliance assurance program, promote science-based renewable energy research, and demonstrate BSEE's commitment and leadership in driving safety performance in the offshore wind industry.

In May 2021, BLM announced final approval of the Crimson Solar Project on BLM lands in Riverside County, CA. The project has the potential to deliver enough energy to power roughly 87,500 homes. The project is located within one of the areas designated for development in the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, identified through a process of extensive review and coordination.

The budget includes \$55.6 million, an increase of \$25.0 million, for onshore clean energy programs managed by BLM. This amount includes \$44.6 million in the Renewable Energy program, an increase of \$14.0 million from the 2021 enacted level, and a program increase of \$11.0 million in the Resource Management Planning program to support renewable energy project siting. Combined, the BLM budget includes a total program increase for renewable energy development of \$25.0 million above the 2021 enacted level. This funding will support the permitting and rights-of-way work associated with siting new projects and transmission lines. To ramp up to meet the Administration's renewable energy goals, BLM is reviewing policies and resources, working with other agencies to improve coordination, and reviewing current applications that could be expedited.

The 2022 budget includes an additional \$13.0 million in FWS to accommodate increased permitting reviews associated with clean energy. The 2022 budget also includes an increase of \$7.0 million to support clean energy programs and grid infrastructure in the Insular Areas. In BIA, program funding for clean energy deployment programs in Indian Country totals \$66.0 million, an increase of \$50.0 million from the 2021 enacted level.

*Leveraging Federal Purchasing Power*—President Biden has challenged Federal agencies to leverage

the purchasing power of Federal procurements to spur the deployment of clean energy technologies and supporting infrastructure and the jobs they create. Interior's fleet includes approximately 30,800 vehicles. Of that total, Interior owns 70 percent of the vehicles, 80 percent of which are light- to medium-duty trucks, vans, and sport utility vehicles. The 2022 budget includes \$73.0 million to start transitioning Interior's fleet to zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) as part of a governmentwide initiative. Funding will support either acquiring ZEVs within the owned fleet or transitioning to the General Services Administration's leased fleet, investment in the related charging infrastructure, and planning and integration to effectively support the initiative.

### **Advancing and Incorporating Science Across Interior**

Shortly after taking office, President Biden issued a Presidential Memorandum on "Restoring Trust in Government Through Scientific Integrity and Evidence-Based Policymaking," setting the policy for the Administration to make evidence-based decisions guided by the best available science and data. Scientific findings should be vetted through well-established scientific processes, including peer review, before they are considered in policy decisions. Maintaining scientific integrity is of the utmost importance.

Secretary Haaland recently signed Secretary's Order 3399, "Department-Wide Approach to the Climate Crisis and Restoring Transparency and Integrity to the Decision-Making Process," which reiterated the importance of science to inform decisions, particularly as part of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) review process. Science is valued at Interior, and it guides management decisions. Science is a cornerstone of the 2022 budget, with strong investments in science across the Department to better support bureau missions, address climate change on the ground, and invest in tools to monitor, measure, and model solutions to important resource challenges. Across the Department, the 2022 budget includes \$1.3 billion for research and development programs, an increase of more than \$300 million from the 2021 enacted level.

USGS is Interior's primary science organization, with a broad portfolio related to the earth and biological sciences. The 2022 budget includes \$1.6 billion for USGS, an increase of \$326.9 million from the 2021 enacted level. The budget for USGS includes \$808.2 million for climate science, an increase of \$205.0 million, to make science the centerpiece of the Biden Administration's commitment to tackling the climate change crisis, and another \$83.0 million increase in other research and development, including support for conservation programs, such as the America the Beautiful initiative.

### **Reducing Greenhouse Gases on Federal Lands**

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) estimates about one-fourth of the Nation's greenhouse gases originate on Federal lands, largely from extractive activity. As the Nation transitions to a clean energy economy, interim measures can mitigate the effects of oil and gas operations on Federal lands. USGS estimates that the United States has 3,000 metric gigatons of geologic greenhouse gas storage capacity, a significant amount of which lies beneath Federal lands. The International Energy Agency estimates that increasing geologic storage through injection of carbon dioxide on Federal lands could help reduce emissions by 14 percent globally by 2050. Reducing methane emissions from oil and gas operations and plugging abandoned wells associated with historical oil and gas operations can further this goal while putting Americans back to work with good-paying jobs. Improved ecosystems management benefits species with quality habitat, ensures ecosystem services such as clean air and clean water for communities, and helps to sequester greenhouse gases. Reforested land—including from burned area restoration—and wetlands have great capacity to store greenhouse gases.

The 2022 investments in USGS science span the range of climate adaptation and land change science, carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas monitoring, critical minerals, mine waste reclamation and reuse, hazards monitoring, and water prediction. The 2022 budget accelerates the development of tools supporting planning, monitoring, and projection, including the Protected Areas Database of the United States (PAD-US) and the Land Change Monitoring, Assessment, and Projection (LCMAP) initiative.



These two tools provide solutions to the growing need for conservation planning and information about the fundamental drivers of land change and the consequences of human-caused and natural changes. Collectively, these investments will accelerate discoveries with the potential to transform America's understanding of the natural world, launch the next generation of Landsat to study and improve life on Earth, and enable U.S. independence from adversarial nations for industrial materials needed for current technologies.

The 2022 budget includes \$60.0 million in USGS collaborative research with the new Advanced Research Projects Agency for Climate (ARPA-C) within the Department of Energy. This high-risk, accelerated research can achieve transformational advancement in climate adaptation and resilience in areas in which industry by itself is not likely to invest due to technical and financial uncertainty. The investment will focus on work in five areas critically important to Interior's mission and to tackling the climate crisis: planning tools to support habitat health and biodiversity, models for drought prediction, predictive tools for wildfire and post-wildfire risk management, coastal change and vulnerability forecasts for planning and disaster response and recovery, and models to assess the potential and risks for geologic storage of hydrogen created using renewable energy.

The 2022 budget increases investment in established ongoing programs that are also critically important to climate science. For example, the budget includes \$84.4 million, an increase of \$43.1 million from the 2021 enacted level, to support regional Climate Adaptation Science Centers (CASCs). The CASCs can play an expanded role to build new relationships and collaborations among Federal, State, and local partners around climate science. This investment will ensure that resource management agencies can integrate the best available climate science into everyday activities. The 2022 budget includes \$36.4 million for Land Change Science, an increase of \$17.2 million from the 2021 enacted level, to support additional research on biologic carbon sequestration; climate impacts on fish, wildlife, and habitat; monitoring of greenhouse gas reduction; and existing partnerships with Tribal and indigenous



Fish and Wildlife Service biologist untangling a bird from a mist net.

communities to integrate traditional climate science knowledge.

The USGS 2022 budget also dedicates funding of \$15.0 million for applied science in species management and land management, which directly supports Interior bureau conservation and adaptive management efforts. Investments proposed in the bureau 2022 budgets directly support science to inform land and resource management. The USGS 2022 budget complements this funding with increased investment for inventorying and monitoring in the land management bureaus. The objective information obtained is used to assess environmental changes and how they are affecting habitat and critical natural resources, such as soil and water, and acts as an early warning system of change.

## Science at Work

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) relies on science and science-based tools to support its land and resource management decisions to ensure the sustainability of those resources for future generations. Science is factored into decisions as varied as energy leasing and permitting, grazing management, threatened and endangered species habitat management, and wild horse and burro management. One of the tools BLM uses to help integrate science into its multiple-use decisions in a consistent manner is its Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring (AIM) Strategy. The availability of standardized assessment, inventory, and monitoring data enables BLM to determine resource conditions and how they respond to management actions. BLM uses the AIM Strategy to assess the attainment of land health standards, track the spread of invasive weeds and prioritize treatment acres, and assess reclamation and restoration treatment effectiveness. This information underpins BLM's adaptive management approach. The 2022 BLM budget request includes a \$10.0 million increase to enhance the AIM Strategy's capacity to better keep pace of the rapid changes in resource conditions due to climate change. The request includes an additional \$10.1 million for decision support for adaptive management.

The 2022 budget includes \$10.6 million, a program increase of \$3.0 million from the 2021 enacted level, for BOEM science programs to inform decision makers and the public about potential environmental impacts of OCS energy and mineral resource exploration and development, how to prevent or mitigate those impacts, and how to monitor impacts and measures for environmental protection. The 2022 budget for Wildland Fire Management includes \$8.0 million, an increase of \$5.0 million from the 2021 enacted level, for research through the Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP). This investment will support joint efforts with the U.S. Forest Service to better understand how to help communities deal with wildfire, smoke, and the lasting consequences of fire on a landscape. For example, the JFSP will conduct studies to determine how to make ecosystems more resilient to the effects of climate change. Further, the JFSP will examine the differences in how wildfire affects different populations and potential strategies to address inequities among populations. These investments in mission-specific science provide a new approach

to developing and delivering actionable science products and reducing barriers between science production and user application.

## Strengthening Tribal Nations

The Biden-Harris Administration made its commitment to Tribal nations clear from the start, emphasizing the need to strengthen and respect the government-to-government relationship with Tribes. The depth of this commitment is clearly demonstrated by the confirmation of Secretary Deb Haaland as the Nation's first Native American Cabinet Secretary. Testifying before Congress earlier this year, Secretary Haaland spoke to the importance of strengthening the Government's relationship with Tribes as a Presidential priority and her plan to achieve this goal through more meaningful Tribal consultation that incorporates Tribal input.

This commitment is governmentwide. Earlier this year, the Administration held its first meeting of the White House Council on Native American Affairs. The Council will coordinate with Tribal nations as it advances work on key issues, such as climate change; Tribal homelands and treaties; economic development; energy and infrastructure; health; education; public safety and justice; and international Indigenous issues. Ten Cabinet Secretaries and other top government officials discussed strengthening the Nation-to-Nation relationship, improving Tribal consultation, and formalizing the working committees of the Council. A White House Tribal Leaders Summit is planned for late 2021 to provide leaders from the 574 federally recognized Tribal nations an opportunity to interact directly with the President and representatives from the highest levels of the Administration.

The pandemic made clear the disparities adversely affecting the quality of life in Native American communities. Enactment of several supplemental funding bills—and, most recently, the historic American Rescue Plan—has provided billions of dollars to help Tribal nations weather the pandemic, stabilize their economies, and support BIE-funded schools. There is still more work to do. The 2022 budget reflects the Administration's



commitment to Tribes. The budget includes \$4.2 billion, an increase of \$727.8 million from the 2021 enacted level, across all Indian Affairs programs.

The budget invests in core programs but goes further to address outstanding gaps in areas such as environmental quality, ensuring that Tribal communities are part of the national priorities to address climate change and move toward clean energy. The budget also includes technical adjustment proposals that would shift funding needed to meet legal requirements to Tribes from discretionary to mandatory funding starting in 2023. These proposals will ensure that full funding is available to address currently enacted Indian Water Settlements and meet ongoing Contract Support Costs and Payments for Tribal Leases.

### **Bureau of Indian Affairs**

The 2022 budget includes \$2.7 billion for BIA programs, an increase of \$614.9 million from the 2021 enacted level. The budget includes \$346.5 million to fully fund estimated Contract Support Costs, an increase of \$61.0 million from the 2021 enacted level, and \$36.6 million for Payments for Tribal Leases, \$15.0 million above the 2021 enacted level.

*Indian Land Consolidation*—Funding includes \$150.0 million for a new Indian Land Consolidation Program (ILCP). This program will directly support EO 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, by enhancing the ability of Tribal governments to plan for and adapt to climate change and to build stronger Tribal communities. Reducing land fractionation and achieving Tribal majority ownership in lands enables Tribes to make decisions about land management, use, and protection that facilitate climate resilience. The program will seek opportunities to leverage the program to complement Tribal climate mitigation and adaptation goals. This new program also reflects the ongoing need to continue to address fractionation on Indian lands as the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations (LBBP), established as part of the Cobell Settlement, ends in November 2022. The program estimates that by the time the LBBP program concludes, 60 percent of the unique locations with fractionated land will not have been

visited by the program. Without further efforts, the program expects the number of fractional interests will likely return to pre-program levels within approximately 20 years.

The new program will incorporate lessons learned from the LBBP and the previous Indian land consolidation program in BIA. ILCP funding will be used to purchase—at fair market value—fractional interests in trust or restricted land from willing individual Indian landowners and convey those interests to the Tribe with jurisdiction.

*Trust Natural Resources Management*—The 2022 budget includes \$395.8 million for Trust Natural Resources Management programs, an increase of \$136.9 million from the 2021 enacted level. The budget increases funding across the full spectrum of Tribal natural resource programs, recognizing their economic importance as well as their contributions to environmental quality and conservation. Within Trust Natural Resources, the budget includes \$61.0 million for the Tribal Climate Resilience program, an increase of \$44.0 million from the 2021 enacted level. The increase includes \$23.0 million to expand Tribal Climate Adaptation Grants, \$11.0 million in additional funding for Alaska Village Relocation Grants, and \$10.0 million for a Tribal CCC. The budget includes \$56.2 million for Minerals and Mining projects, which focus on clean and alternative energy programs, an increase of \$40.1 million from the 2021 enacted level.

*Tribal Public Safety*—BIA's 2022 budget includes \$507.1 million for Public Safety and Justice programs, an increase of \$58.4 million from the 2021 enacted level. Funding includes \$259.5 million for criminal investigations and police services, an increase of \$38.5 million. This increase includes \$10.0 million to support the *McGirt v. Oklahoma* Supreme Court decision, \$10.0 million to support a body-worn camera initiative for officers, \$8.2 million to continue support for BIA participation in the Federal Opioid Initiative, and \$5.0 million for implementation of the Violence Against Women Act. The budget includes \$116.4 million, an increase of \$10.0 million, for detention and correction programs and \$43.2 million, an increase of \$4.2 million, for Tribal courts.

## Implementing the Not Invisible Act

Secretary Haaland is working with Attorney General Merrick Garland to implement the Not Invisible Act. Congress enacted the Not Invisible Act to increase intergovernmental coordination to identify and combat violent crime against Indians and within Indian lands. The Act calls for Interior to coordinate prevention efforts, grants, and programs related to missing and murdered Indigenous peoples.

The Act establishes a Joint Commission to which the Secretary of the Interior and Attorney General appoint members. The Commission must be composed of at least 27 Federal and non-Federal members who represent diverse experiences, backgrounds, and geography and who are able to provide balanced points of view regarding the duties of the Commission. The Commission will hold hearings, take testimony, and receive evidence to develop recommendations for the Federal Government to combat violent crime against Indians and within Indian lands. Secretary Haaland was the lead sponsor of the Not Invisible Act when she served in Congress. The bill was passed unanimously by voice vote in both chambers of Congress.



Youth from Northern Arizona unite in support of Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives Awareness Day 2021.

The 2022 budget maintains strong support for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous American Indians and Alaska Natives initiative, including \$16.5 million for the program, an increase of \$5.0 million from the 2021 enacted level. Secretary Haaland recently announced formation of a new Missing & Murdered Unit (MMU) within the BIA Office of Justice Services to provide leadership and direction for cross-departmental and interagency work involving missing and murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives. The MMU will help to put the full weight of the Federal Government into investigating these cases and marshal law enforcement resources across Federal agencies and throughout Indian Country.

*Focus on Environmental Quality*—The 2022 BIA budget includes specific investments to address environmental quality problems on Tribal lands. Within BIA Construction, the budget includes \$29.9 million specifically to address water safety

and sanitation requirements related to BIA-owned drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. Funding will address significant water quality problems, including EPA-identified systems of concern. Among the initial efforts will be repairs to the Crow Agency Water Treatment Facility, which was found to be not compliant with EPA regulations, and risk mitigation related to a total system failure in water systems in northern Idaho.

Funding is also included in Operation of Indian Programs for Environmental Quality projects. The budget includes \$44.0 million, an increase of \$26.1 million from the 2021 enacted level. Funding will support remediation of the former Tuba City dump Superfund site in Arizona, which continues to threaten the drinking water of the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe. The cleanup of the uranium contamination from the site is complete, but further remediation is required to address the household waste in the associated landfill, for



which it has received EPA citations for regulation violations. BIA is considered the only responsible party at this site.

*Funding for Tribal Water Settlements*—Congress recently enacted two new Indian water rights settlements: the Montana Water Rights Protection Act, which ratifies the water rights compact entered into by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Water Settlement and the State; and the Navajo-Utah Water Rights Settlement. These two new agreements require \$1.2 billion in discretionary funding over 9 and 8 years, respectively. Consistent with President Biden’s objective for Tribal nations to “ensure clean, safe drinking water and water infrastructure in Indian Country and all communities,” the Department will start annual payments for those settlements in 2022 to meet these commitments.

The 2022 budget includes \$270.2 million for Indian water rights settlement activities, an increase of \$71.9 million from the 2021 enacted level. This amount includes \$75.2 million within BIA, an increase of \$30.2 million from the 2021 enacted level, and \$157.6 million within the Bureau of Reclamation, an increase of \$36.8 million, for settlements. As described above, the budget proposes to reclassify discretionary funding for enacted Indian water settlements, including these two new settlements, to mandatory funding starting in 2023. Doing so will provide Tribal nations with certainty that these commitments will be met with a dedicated, predictable funding source.

*Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities*—The 2022 budget includes a \$14.1 million increase to support Human Services activities, including \$3.0 million to expand the Tiwahe Initiative. The Tiwahe Initiative is a holistic approach to addressing overall Tribal community needs that support youth, family, community safety and stability, and cultural awareness. Under Tiwahe, BIA assists Tribes at selected sites to implement a tribally driven approach to create a more effective and efficient comprehensive service delivery model. The initiative facilitates collaboration within Tribal communities—which can help to leverage resources, share expertise, reduce duplication, and exchange information about families’

needs—to formulate the most responsive approach to provide service.

### **Bureau of Indian Education**

The 2022 budget includes \$1.3 billion for Indian Education programs, an increase of \$110.6 million from the 2021 enacted level. The primary focus of funding remains on support for the day-to-day operations of BIE-funded elementary and secondary schools. BIE is working collaboratively with Tribes and communities to alleviate the strains imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic on BIE students and their families, as well as on teachers, administrators, and staff across BIE’s schools and the Tribal Colleges and Universities.

The 2022 budget includes \$490.6 million for Indian Student Equalization Program formula funds to strengthen the primary support for general school programs. This amount is an increase of \$58.2 million from the 2021 enacted level. Funds will enable BIE to improve opportunities and outcomes in the classroom, provide improved instructional services, and support improved teacher quality, recruitment, and retention. The budget includes \$24.7 million for Early Child and Family Development, an increase of \$3.7 million, to expand preschool opportunities at BIE-funded schools. The budget continues to invest in activities that promote educational self-determination for Tribal communities and includes \$94.9 million, an increase of \$8.0 million, for Tribal Grant Support Costs to cover the administration costs for Tribes that choose to operate BIE-funded schools. This level of funding supports 100 percent of the estimated requirement.

The budget also invests in postsecondary programs, including \$45.0 million for Tribal scholarships and adult education, an increase of \$10.2 million from the 2021 enacted level. The budget also includes \$5.0 million for the Science Post Graduate Scholarship Fund, an increase of \$2.0 million, for a new initiative providing research internships to highly qualified students from economically disadvantaged rural communities.

The 2022 budget includes funding to maintain the important investments in distance learning infrastructure provided during the pandemic. The

budget includes \$35.4 million for Education Information Technology, which is an increase of \$20.1 million from the 2021 enacted level. This increase provides critical funding to support upgraded broadband access at BIE schools, including recurring operating costs for network systems, such as annual learning software subscriptions and licenses. These investments will enable BIE to continue delivering education during the pandemic as well as substantially improve the efficiency and quality of education upon return to in-school learning. To support infrastructure needs, the 2022 budget also includes \$264.3 million in discretionary education construction funds to replace and repair school facilities and address priority maintenance needs at 183 schools.

### **Promoting Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion of Underserved Communities**

President Biden's EO 13985 on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government clearly states the Administration's policy: "The Federal Government should pursue a comprehensive approach to advancing equity for all" to include those who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality. The President's call to agencies to advance equity for all is being put into action at Interior.

"I am humbled to be on this journey with the dedicated professionals at the Department of the Interior. We must continue to promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility at the agency. That means making space for staff to feel heard and safe, lifting up the voices of those who have been underrepresented, and centering those perspectives in the decisions and policies we implement as part of a broader commitment to environmental justice. Only then can we thrive together."

Secretary Deb Haaland, April 20, 2021

*Strengthening Departmental Commitment to Diversity and Equity*—Through the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Civil Rights, the Department is taking stock of current programs across Interior that address equal employment opportunity, civil rights, diversity and inclusion, accessibility,

workplace culture transformation, and discrimination based on gender identity or sexual orientation. As part of this process, the Department is working with bureaus and offices to identify gaps, challenges, and best practices and to examine Department and bureau roles, responsibilities, and governance to ensure that any necessary changes are implemented.

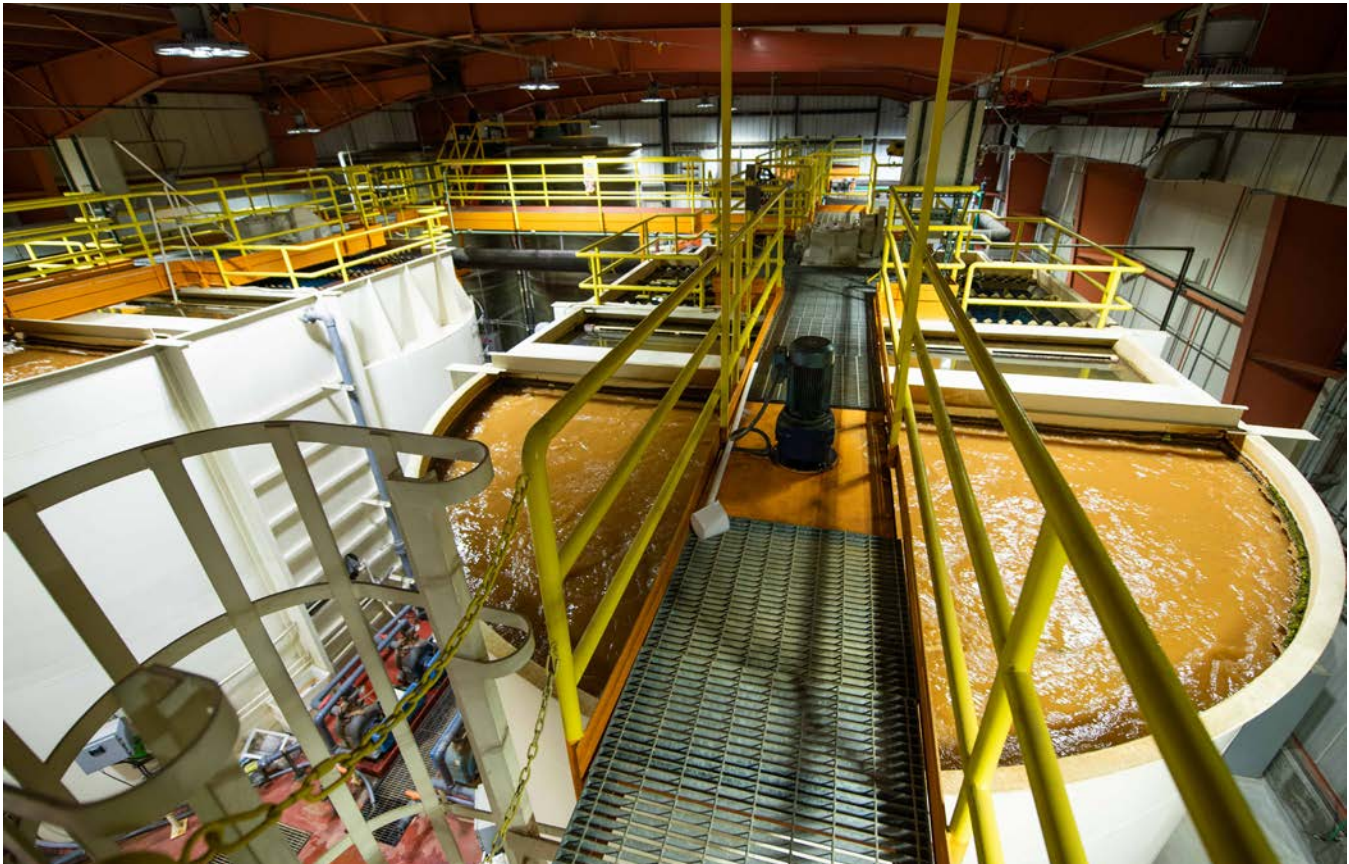
Another aspect to this review is to evaluate current programs and identify where additional support is needed in 2022 to strengthen capability. As a result, the 2022 budget includes a \$12.8 million increase across Interior bureaus and offices to better address diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in Interior's workforce.

*Improving Tribal Consultation and Elevating Environmental Justice*—The Administration's emphasis on equity for all and inclusion is also a part of how Interior executes its core missions. Secretary's Order 3399 provides direction on the use of science in decision making, including the NEPA process. The order requires Interior bureaus and offices to use science and to enhance opportunities for Tribal and environmental justice community engagement in the NEPA and decision-making process. As part of the NEPA process, bureaus and offices must consider the impacts on the natural or physical environment as well as social, cultural, and economic impacts.

This order also directs bureaus and offices to proactively consult with Tribes, "both those in the proposed areas and those with a historic presence, as well as engage potentially impacted environmental justice communities early in the project planning process." As the Federal agency with primary responsibility for Tribal programs and policies, Interior is uniquely positioned to be a leader in implementing this important Administration policy. Secretary Haaland is committed to ensuring the Federal Government honors the government-to-government relationship with Tribes and strengthens Tribal sovereignty through meaningful Tribal consultation. This is an important step, and more work remains.

As discussed in the Tribal nations section of this overview, the 2022 budget includes targeted





Inside the Leadville Water Treatment Facility.

investments to strengthen Tribal sovereignty, build capacity, and increase focus on environmental quality and justice needs in Tribal communities. The budget proposes strong action to ensure that Indian water settlements funding commitments are honored, includes funding for Tribes to address the risks of abandoned mines and orphaned oil and gas wells on their lands, and increases funding for job training and placement, scholarships, and adult education.

EO 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, establishes the Justice40 Initiative that will seek to bring 40 percent of the overall benefits of relevant Federal investments to underserved communities. The initiative will focus on clean energy and energy efficiency, clean transit, affordable and sustainable housing, training and workforce development, the reduction of legacy pollution, and the development of critical clean water infrastructure. Interior programs will play a strong role in this initiative to address racial equity and environmental justice through inclusive initiatives, such as Reclamation Jobs and Clean Energy for Tribal

Communities, as well as core mission activities to construct drinking water and irrigation systems in underserved communities, encourage open areas and recreation in cities through urban refuges and parks, and increase access to broadband and power in the hard-to-reach parts of America. The CCC will play a significant role in delivering investments in climate resilience to those communities and will provide opportunities for good-paying careers through learned trades for many people.

The Bureau of Reclamation's Leadville Mine project is an example of an environmental justice project that is part of Interior's core mission and is funded in the 2022 budget. The Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel (LMDT) was purchased by the Bureau of Reclamation from the Bureau of Mines in 1959. Originally, the tunnel was a potential source of water for the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project; however, poor water quality required that the water be treated before it could be released to the Arkansas River. As a result, Reclamation designed and constructed the LMDT Treatment Plant. It has been safely and effectively treating water released

from the Tunnel to the Arkansas River since 1991. The tunnel is long, stretching southeast under the Town of Leadville and into an area of the EPA's California Gulch Superfund Site known as Operable Unit 6. Reclamation's current activities look to eliminate the presence of hazardous materials from the existing abandoned mining infrastructure that are causing environmental damage, harming the community, and posing a risk to public and worker safety. The budget includes \$24.5 million for remediation at the Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel.

*Leveraging Programs to Connect Communities—*The 2022 budget expands ongoing programs working to connect new audiences to the outdoors and Interior's mission activities. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service budget includes \$12.5 million for its Urban Wildlife Conservation Program, an increase of \$7.0 million from the 2021 enacted level. The program features 101 national wildlife refuges that are within a 25-mile radius of an urban area, such as Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge near New Orleans. With 80 percent of Americans living in cities, the program is helping people to get outside, engage with their community, and become part of the next generation of outdoor enthusiasts.

NPS plays a particularly important role in ensuring cultural diversity in Federal programs and connecting underserved communities to the Department. In 2021, NPS announced the availability of \$150.0 million for competitive Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership program grants, which help build parks in underserved communities, primarily in urban settings. The 2022 NPS budget includes an \$8.0 million increase for grants to Indian Tribes to support Tribal historic preservation offices that preserve the distinct cultural heritage of American Indian Tribes nationwide. Grants to Tribes, which do not have a matching requirement, help preserve vanishing Tribal cultural resources and heritage, allowing Tribes to participate in a national preservation program and developing capabilities for conducting sustainable preservation programs.

NPS is also charged with preserving and caring for structures and artifacts that tell the story of all Americans. Providing outdoor recreation opportunities, the telling of America's story, and preservation of

our collective history are an essential element of Interior's mission. The NPS 2022 budget includes \$15.0 million to expand capacity at more than 70 national park units and programs that preserve and tell the story of historically underrepresented and marginalized groups, including \$5.0 million for the African American Civil Rights Network. The budget includes an additional \$5.0 million for competitive historic preservation grants to increase support to State and local efforts to preserve sites that document the struggle for equal opportunity for African Americans. The budget includes \$10.0 million for construction at the Selma Interpretive Center for a voting rights center that honors the legacy of civil rights leaders, including the late Representative John Lewis.

The 2022 budget also includes \$10.0 million for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Tribal Colleges and Universities through the Historic Preservation Fund. The 2022 budget continues to propose a transfer of \$3.3 million to the 400 Years of African American History Commission.

## Building Agency Capacity

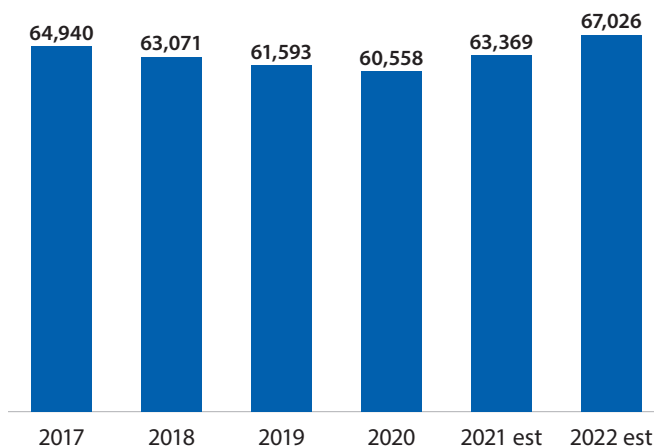
"One of the most important tasks for me as Secretary is lifting up the voices and the expertise of the Department's dedicated career employees to inform the decisions that we make. I only wish every American could see the hard work and the singular focus on results that I see on a daily basis from our workforce."

Secretary Deb Haaland, April 20, 2021

*Rebuilding Interior's Workforce—*The 2022 budget includes important investments in programs needed to help build back America to be better and more competitive as the world continues to change. This includes funding to support a strong, talented workforce at Interior and strengthen the core infrastructure needed to continue to deliver Interior's missions. If enacted in total, the 2022 budget is estimated to support total staffing of 67,026 full-time equivalents (FTEs). At the end of September 2020, total staffing was 60,558 FTEs. If enacted as proposed, the 2022 budget would increase staffing 10.7 percent from 2020.



Department of the Interior FTEs



As shown in the previous chart, staffing declined during the past 4 years by 4,382, or 6.7 percent, from 2017 through 2020. Current staffing is expected to increase so that by the end of 2021, Interior staffing levels will be roughly where they were at the end of 2018. With the 2022 budget, staffing is estimated to surpass 2017 staffing levels by 3.2 percent.

The emphasis on science in the 2022 budget is estimated to increase USGS total staffing by 8.3 percent, reaching 8,196 FTEs compared with 7,565 in 2020. The Administration is working now to address the significant number of vacancies in BLM associated with the previously implemented relocation. At the end of 2020, total BLM staffing was 9,458 FTEs, a decrease of 190 FTEs from 2017. With the 2022 budget, BLM staffing would reach an estimated 10,617 FTEs, an increase of 12.3 percent from 2020.

In addition, the Department is actively reviewing the 2019 reorganization of BLM, which changed the location of BLM headquarters to Grand Junction, CO, and moved functions, positions, and employees to locations across the West. Ultimately, more than 80 percent of the employees in affected positions did not relocate. The ongoing review is focused on understanding what impacts the reorganization has had on BLM operations and employees, assessing the impact of the significant loss of experience, and identifying needed actions to improve bureau capacity. BLM plans to engage stakeholders—starting with bureau employees themselves—and evaluate options to provide responsive service to BLM’s customers in the West, coordinate with lawmakers and other partners in

Washington, D.C., and ensure integrated leadership across the agency.

As the Department works to rebuild its workforce, Interior will seek to recruit, hire, and train the next generation of talent that reflects the diversity and strength of the United States. Complementing our diverse workforce, the Department is committed to providing the tools critical for success across Interior.

*Investing in Departmental Infrastructure*—Interior manages an infrastructure portfolio valued at more than \$330 billion, ranging from large dams and canals in the West to iconic national landmarks across the country. In total, the Department is responsible for roughly 43,000 buildings, 100,000 miles of road, and 80,000 structures. Operations, maintenance, recapitalization, and modernization of Interior’s infrastructure are a significant part of annual cost requirements.

The 2022 budget includes \$2.8 billion for operations, maintenance, repair, and construction of Interior facilities, an increase of \$241.8 million from the 2021 enacted level. This amount includes maintenance and construction across the Department, including water project construction, maintenance, and dam safety. An example of the funding included in this request is \$184.8 million to support USGS science and office facilities. The 2022 funding will support the last phase of the Menlo to Moffett project, a multiyear project that is recapitalizing several major USGS science centers; and relocating USGS to a more secure and cost-effective campus, colocated with NASA and other partners—allowing the Federal Government to sell the underutilized campus at Menlo Park, CA. The budget also funds the first phase to modernize and replace outdated and unsuitable energy and minerals laboratories in the Denver area.

The requested infrastructure funding is complemented by \$1.6 billion available through the National Park and Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund, included in GAOA, enacted last year. This funding addresses deferred maintenance and repair of assets in BLM, FWS, NPS, and BIA. A list of the 2022 proposed projects is included in Appendix D.

*Strengthening Interior's Cybersecurity*—Much of Interior's workforce worked remotely during the pandemic, and bureaus and offices worked quickly to adapt and ensure that staff had the right equipment and bandwidth to telework effectively. Those efforts increased demand on the Department's networks and heightened attention to the importance of a strong cybersecurity posture at Interior.

The 2022 budget includes an increase of \$25.5 million to support the post-SolarWinds Departmentwide cyber defense capability and address related gaps identified in specific bureaus. In December 2020, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) determined that a commercial

product called SolarWinds was altered by a foreign state adversary to break into computers and access sensitive information. Interior, as one of several agencies exposed to compromise, worked with DHS to implement critical cybersecurity safeguards to detect system defects and mitigate and prevent cyberattacks. Of the increase, \$16.0 million will maintain those safeguards, which have proven to be uniquely effective in protecting against the SolarWinds threat, and \$5.4 million will fill other critical gaps in Interior's cyber defensive capability. Finally, the remaining \$4.1 million will support implementation of a central cyber analytic solution needed to manage the Department's portfolio of cybersecurity capabilities.



Southeast Conservation Corp crew members rebuild boardwalk.

*Modernizing Central Systems*—Interior's central Financial and Business Management System (FBMS) requires modernization, and the budget requests an increase of \$5.0 million for the first year of a 2-year system infrastructure migration to prevent technical obsolescence. FBMS supports the administrative systems requirements of all Interior bureaus for core accounting, budget execution, acquisition, aspects of financial assistance, real and personal property management, fleet management, travel integration, enterprise information management, and reporting. The migration will modernize and transform Interior's administrative operations, strengthen the cybersecurity of Federal networks and critical infrastructure, and implement security measures.

As part of the modernization of FBMS, the 2022 budget includes an increase of \$4.0 million to support migration to improved cloud hosting with sufficient virtual in-memory servers needed to support the size and complexity of the Departmentwide FBMS system. Funding would also enable Interior



to expand the application of robotic process automation to optimize business practices.

The 2022 budget includes a \$17.5 million increase to begin the next phase of the Office of Natural Resource Revenue's (ONRR's) ongoing IT Modernization effort of the Minerals Revenue Management Support System. The modernization is focused on the design, development, and deployment of the new systems and the eventual decommissioning of the legacy system. ONRR ensures that revenue from Federal and Indian mineral leases is effectively, efficiently, and accurately collected, accounted for, analyzed, audited, and disbursed in a timely

fashion to recipients. Revenue distributions, which totaled \$8.1 billion in 2020, benefit States, Tribes, individual Indian mineral royalty owners, and U.S. Treasury accounts. The modernization will improve the timeliness and accuracy of payments to fund recipients by reducing the need for manual processes. Phase one, supported in 2021, initiated the business process reengineering associated with this highly complex system. This second phase will begin design and implementation of the modular system, which will leverage the ability to deploy new technologies and reduce long-term operations and maintenance costs.