



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN BRUCE WESTERMAN

To: House Committee on Natural Resources Republican Members
From: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations Staff:
Michelle Lane (Michelle.Lane@mail.house.gov) x6-4137 and Lucas Drill
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Date: Monday, May 11, 2026
Subject: Oversight Hearing on *“Examining the President’s FY 2027 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior”*

The House Committee on Natural Resources will hold an oversight hearing on *“Examining the President’s FY 2027 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior”* on **Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., in 1324 Longworth House Office Building.**

Member offices are requested to notify Sophia Varnasidis (Sophia.Varnasidis@mail.house.gov) or Madeline Kelley (Madeline.Kelley@mail.house.gov) by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, if their Member intends to participate in the hearing.

I. KEY MESSAGES

- House Committee on Natural Resources (Committee) Republicans are working proactively with the Trump administration to unleash American energy, strengthen domestic mineral supply chains, and promote access to our abundant natural resources.
- Committee Republicans are increasing domestic mining activities and reducing America’s dependence on foreign adversaries for critical minerals and rare earth elements, creating quality jobs for hardworking Americans.
- From investing in improved visitor experiences on our public lands to streamlining wildfire responses, Committee Republicans are dedicated to improving access to our beautiful public lands and waters and saving them from costly federal mismanagement.
- Working with the Trump administration, Committee Republicans have swiftly secured America’s borders, preventing a return to the staggering environmental devastation that criminal cartels had routinely inflicted during the Biden administration.
- Committee Republicans continue to build upon a successful record of reducing regulatory red tape, streamlining permitting processes across the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), and improving access to our natural resources.

II. WITNESSES

- **The Hon. Doug Burgum**, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

III. BACKGROUND

DOI manages a vast array of resources across the U.S. and its territories, including over 480 million acres of surface land, 750 million acres of subsurface and mineral estate, and nearly 3.2 billion acres offshore.¹ DOI collects revenues from various authorized activities on federal lands, including energy production, mineral extraction, grazing, and timber sales.² In 2027, such revenues are projected to exceed \$19.75 billion.³ DOI also serves as both the largest supplier and manager of water in 17 western states.⁴ Significantly, DOI-managed resources produce 43 percent of the country's coal supply, 25 percent of its oil supply, and 10 percent of its natural gas supply.⁵ More than 565 million visits are made to DOI lands annually, including trips to national parks, wildlife refuges, and other sites.⁶ Finally, DOI is responsible for providing services ranging from education to law enforcement and energy development to federally recognized tribes across the nation.

DOI's Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 budget requests \$16.1 billion in current authority and \$15.9 billion in net discretionary authority, which would support ongoing efforts "to improve the efficiency with which DOI fulfills its mission."⁷

Select agency breakdowns follow (note: only select accounts are included; for a full breakdown of the DOI budget, please contact Committee staff):⁸

¹ U.S. DEP'T OF THE INTERIOR, FISCAL YEAR 2027 THE INTERIOR BUDGET IN BRIEF (Apr. 2026), <https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2026-04/2027bibentire-book508.pdf>.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ Data compiled from U.S. DEP'T OF THE INTERIOR, FISCAL YEAR 2027 THE INTERIOR BUDGET IN BRIEF (Apr. 2026), <https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2026-04/2027bibentire-book508.pdf>. Amounts include only regular discretionary appropriations. Amounts shown exclude disaster relief supplemental appropriations for FY 2025 appropriations in Division B, Pub. L. No. 118-158; advance appropriations in Division J, Appropriations, of Pub. L. No. 117-58, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act; and mandatory appropriations under authorizing statutes. Only select accounts are included. For further information, please contact Committee staff.

Bureau / Office	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Enacted⁹	FY 2027 Request	Change From FY 2026 to FY 2027
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	\$1.52 billion	\$1.42 billion	\$936.1 million	- \$479.0 million
Marine Minerals Administration (MMA) ¹⁰	\$328.7 million	\$255.9 million	\$160.9 million	- \$95.0 million
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE)	\$278.7 million	\$284.6 million	\$285.8 million	+ \$1.28 million
U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)	\$1.45 billion	\$1.42 billion	\$892.7 million	- \$527.8 million
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)	\$1.68 billion	\$1.65 billion	\$1.33 billion	- \$323.2 million
National Park Service (NPS)	\$3.34 billion	\$3.26 billion	\$2.21 billion	- \$1.06 billion
Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)	\$2.47 billion	\$2.43 billion	\$1.78 billion	- \$647.2 million
Bureau of Trust Funds Administration (BTFA)	\$100.0 million	\$100.0 million	\$90.1 million	- \$10.0 million
Office of Insular Affairs (OIA)	\$123.6 million	\$118.0 million	\$103.0 million	- \$15.0 million
U.S. Wildland Fire Service (USWFS) ¹¹	\$1.51 billion	\$1.52 billion	\$6.91 billion	+ \$5.39 billion
Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) ¹²	\$1.81 billion	\$1.56 billion	\$1.21 billion	- \$353.6 million
Table Total¹³	\$14.61 billion	\$14.02 billion	\$15.91 billion	+ \$1.89 billion

⁹ Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2026, Pub. L. No. 119–74 (Jan. 23, 2026).

¹⁰ Amounts reflect the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) dollars under the proposed Marine Minerals Administration (MMA) structure announced in April 2026. MMA appropriations include discretionary appropriations and offsetting collections derived from a portion of outer continental shelf rental receipts, cost-recovery fees, and inspections fees.

¹¹ On January 12, 2026, DOI launched the centralized U.S. Wildland Fire Service. The 2025 and 2026 amounts show funding for DOI's prior Wildland Fire Management account and repurposed appropriations provided in the Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2026 (P.L. 119–74).

¹² Bureau of Reclamation appropriations include both discretionary appropriations and offsetting collections derived from Central Valley Project Restoration Fund receipts.

¹³ Totals include only the selected agencies shown in the table, and do not represent overall totals for all agencies and offices

This memo discusses DOI’s FY 2027 proposed budget within the context of five fundamental policy themes: 1) unleashing American energy dominance and securing mineral supply chains; 2) expanding outdoor access and supporting responsible land management practices; 3) bolstering America’s national security and public safety; 4) modernizing infrastructure and reducing regulatory red tape; and 5) supporting tribal and insular areas.

Unleashing American Energy Dominance and Securing Mineral Supply Chains

Coal – On April 8, 2025, President Trump signed Executive Order (EO) 14261, “Reinvigorating America’s Beautiful Clean Coal Industry and Amending Executive Order 14241,” which aimed to increase coal production in the U.S.¹⁴ This was the first of many steps to bring domestic coal production back online so that the U.S. can remain an energy superpower. DOI built upon this EO by removing regulatory burdens for coal mining, reopening federal lands for coal leasing, ending the coal leasing moratorium instituted under the Biden administration, and adding metallurgical coal to the USGS’s list of critical minerals.¹⁵ Complementing those efforts, the Committee has passed multiple provisions supporting coal production on federal lands in its reconciliation title, including one providing certainty for long-term coal leasing. The Committee has also passed four pieces of legislation out of the House of Representatives during the 119th Congress that codified key elements of EO 14261.¹⁶

Hardrock Mining – Secretary Burgum has emphasized the role of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), noting that the agency has “got a job to actually go out and map those resources to find out how many trillions or hundreds of trillions of dollars of assets belong to all of you, the public.” Burgum went on to add, “we’re going to map, baby, map. And then we’re also going to mine, baby, mine.”¹⁷

Secretary Burgum has been adamant about revamping domestic hardrock mineral production, warning that reliance on China puts the U.S. in a precarious position. In a DOI budget hearing before the Senate Committee on Appropriations, the Secretary expressed concern over China’s restrictions on mineral exports and its tendency to flood the market with certain minerals to crush U.S. competition.¹⁸ Contrary to the Biden administration, which approved fewer than five new hardrock mines and restricted development across hundreds of thousands of acres of federal lands, the Trump administration – in just its first year – “advanced 5... critical mineral

funded in the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

¹⁴ Exec. Order No. 14241, 90 Fed. Reg. 15517 (Apr. 8, 2025).

¹⁵ See e.g., Clark Mindock, *Judge reinstates Obama-era coal-leasing ban*, Reuters, Aug. 15, 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/legal/litigation/judge-reinstates-obama-era-coal-leasing-ban-2022-08-13/>; *The Department of the Interior Moves to Restore Coal Industry*, U.S. DEP’T OF THE INTERIOR (Apr. 8, 2025), <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/department-interior-moves-restore-coal-industry>; Final 2025 List of Critical Minerals, 90 Fed. Reg. 50494 (Nov. 7, 2025).

¹⁶ Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development Act, H.R. 4776, 119th Cong. (2025); H.R.J. Res. 130, 119th Cong. (2025) (enacted); H.R.J. Res 104, 119th Cong. (2025) (enacted); H.R.J. Res 105, 119th Cong. (2025) (enacted).

¹⁷ See Jennifer A. Dlouhy, *Trump’s Energy Czar Has Plan to ‘Map, Baby, Map’ US Oil Bounty*, FINANCIAL POST (Feb. 22, 2025), <https://financialpost.com/pmnbusiness/pmnbusiness-trumps-energy-czar-has-plan-to-map-baby-map-us-oil-bounty>.

¹⁸ See *A Review of the President’s Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior*, Hearing before the Subcomm. on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies of the Senate Comm. on Appropriations, 119th Cong. (May 21, 2025), <https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/hearings/a-review-of-the-presidents-fiscal-year-2026-budget-request-for-the-department-of-the-interior>.

production projects and approved 39 projects across the country, covering more than 218,000 Federal acres.”¹⁹

Per EO 14241, “Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production,” there are currently 17 DOI-managed mining projects on the Permitting Council’s Dashboard as FAST-41 Covered or Transparency Projects, ensuring a more efficient permitting process and greater federal accountability.²⁰ Over its four years, the Biden administration added only one mining project to the Dashboard, doing so in January 2025, shortly before President Trump took office. DOI has led the way in responding to President Trump’s National Energy Emergency declaration²¹ by implementing accelerated permitting procedures for domestic mines. On May 23, 2025, DOI completed its first 14-day environmental review under these emergency procedures, greenlighting the Velvet-Wood uranium and vanadium mine in San Juan County, Utah.²² This represented a groundbreaking milestone in shortening U.S. mine development timelines, which currently take an average of over 19 years from discovery to production.²³

Bureau of Land Management (BLM): Onshore Oil and Gas – In FY 2025, energy production on federal lands produced over 604 million barrels of oil and roughly 4.3 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, accounting for over \$8 billion in revenue.²⁴ BLM oversees oil and gas leasing and production on federal land in accordance with the principles of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.²⁵ BLM’s regulatory jurisdiction is limited to federal lands, including minerals.

For oil and gas production on federal lands, the Mineral Leasing Act (MLA) explicitly states that “lease sales shall be held for each State where eligible lands are available at least quarterly and more frequently if the Secretary of the Interior determines such sales are necessary.”²⁶ Unfortunately, the Biden administration did not hold a lease sale until June 2022, going a full year and a half without one. This lack of leasing not only threatened long-term U.S. energy security but also significantly reduced federal revenues. In just one year, the Trump administration leased more acreage and generated more revenue than the Biden administration accomplished in four years.²⁷

¹⁹ U.S. DEP’T OF THE INTERIOR, FISCAL YEAR 2027 THE INTERIOR BUDGET IN BRIEF (Apr. 2026), <https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2026-04/2027bibentire-book508.pdf>.

²⁰ See *Permitting Dashboard Federal Infrastructure Projects: Fast-41 Covered Projects and FAST-41 Transparency Projects*, FED. PERMITTING IMPROVEMENT STEERING COUNCIL, (May 2026) https://www.permits.performance.gov/projects?title=&term_node_tid_depth=2501&term_node_tid_depth_1=7341&field_permitting_project_adpoint_administrative_area=All&field_project_status_target_id=All&field_project_category_target_id=All.

²¹ Exec. Order No. 14156, 90 Fed. Reg. 8433 (Jan. 20, 2025).

²² See *Interior Department approves Utah uranium-vanadium mine to strengthen U.S. mineral security*, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (May 23, 2025), <https://www.blm.gov/press-release/interior-department-approves-utah-uranium-vanadium-mine-strengthen-us-mineral>.

²³ See Paul Manalo, *From 6 years to 18 years: The increasing trend of mine lead times*, S&P GLOBAL (Apr. 11, 2025), <https://www.spglobal.com/market-intelligence/en/news-insights/research/from-6years-to-18years-the-increasing-trend-of-mine-lead-times>.

²⁴ See *Natural Resources Revenue Data*, OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES REVENUE (Apr. 2026), <https://revenuedata.doi.gov/?tab=tab-revenue>.

²⁵ See ADAM VANN, CONG. RSCH. SERV., R48130, ENERGY PRODUCTION ON FEDERAL LANDS: LEASING AND AUTHORIZATION (July 19, 2024), <https://crs.gov/Reports/R48130?source=search>.

²⁶ 30 U.S.C. § 226.

²⁷ *Id.*; U.S. DEP’T OF THE INTERIOR, FISCAL YEAR 2027: THE INTERIOR BUDGET IN BRIEF (Apr. 2026), <https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2026-04/2027bibentire-book508.pdf>.

At the start of his second term, President Trump issued EO 14154, “Unleashing American Energy.”²⁸ To meet the goals of EO 14154, Secretary Burgum directed DOI to restart quarterly onshore oil and gas leasing, which would restore compliance with the MLA’s statutory mandate. In 2025, BLM held 23 oil and gas lease sales across 10 states, generating over \$345.2 million in revenue.²⁹

Once a lease is secured, BLM requires operators to submit an Application for a Permit to Drill (APD) for each well they plan to drill during exploration or production.³⁰ Efficiently approving APDs increases near-term production on federal lands, which boosts revenues and supply and, ultimately, drives down energy prices for all Americans. The Biden administration failed to process APDs efficiently, resulting in unnecessary delays and higher energy costs.

To combat this issue, DOI announced emergency permitting procedures to accelerate the development of domestic energy resources.³¹ These measures expedite the review and approval of projects related to the identification, leasing, siting, production, transportation, refining, or generation of energy within the U.S.³² Additionally, BLM issued an Instruction Memorandum to increase the lands offered for onshore oil and gas lease sales, shorten leasing timeframes, and ensure that oil and gas lease sales are held in accordance with the MLA.³³

Marine Minerals Administration (MMA): Offshore Oil and Gas – On April 3, 2026, the Secretary announced the restructuring of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) into one unified entity, the Marine Minerals Administration.³⁴ In addition to saving taxpayer dollars and further consolidating the federal workforce, the change is meant to “improve coordination and increase efficiencies across offshore leasing, permitting, inspections and environmental oversight, while maintaining all existing regulatory protections and rigorous safety standards.”³⁵

Under Secretary Burgum, DOI has reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining a robust and balanced offshore energy portfolio that supports American energy independence, resource conservation, and responsible development.³⁶ Accordingly, offshore oil production totaled over 714 million barrels in 2025, the highest annual output on record.³⁷ To ensure America stays on

²⁸ Exec. Order No. 14154, 90 Fed. Reg. 8353 (Jan. 20, 2025).

²⁹ See *Oil and Gas: Lease Sale results at a glance (Calendar Year 2025)*, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, <https://www.blm.gov/programs/energy-and-minerals/oil-and-gas>.

³⁰ ADAM VANN, CONG. RSCH. SERV., R48130, ENERGY PRODUCTION ON FEDERAL LANDS: LEASING AND AUTHORIZATION (July 19, 2024), <https://crs.gov/Reports/R48130?source=search>.

³¹ See *Department of the Interior Implements Emergency Permitting Procedures to Strengthen Domestic Energy Supply*, U.S. DEP’T OF THE INTERIOR (Apr. 23, 2025), <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/department-interior-implements-emergency-permitting-procedures-strengthen-domestic>.

³² *Id.*

³³ See *Oil and Gas Leasing – Land Use Planning and Lease Parcel Reviews*, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (May 8, 2025), <https://www.blm.gov/policy/im-2025-028>.

³⁴ See *Department of the Interior Begins Transition to Marine Minerals Administration*, U.S. DEP’T OF THE INTERIOR (Apr. 3, 2026), <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/department-interior-begins-transition-marine-minerals-administration>.

³⁵ *Id.*

³⁶ See *Department of the Interior Drives Unprecedented Offshore Energy Growth Under President Trump*, U.S. DEP’T OF THE INTERIOR (Mar. 28, 2025), <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/department-interior-drives-unprecedented-offshore-energy-growth-under-president-trump>.

³⁷ See *Interior Highlights Record U.S. Energy Production Under President Trump’s American Energy Dominance Agenda*, U.S. DEP’T OF THE INTERIOR (Apr. 1, 2026), <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-highlights-record-us-energy-production-under-president-trumps-american>.

its current trajectory, and as mandated by the Working Families Tax Cut Act, DOI held offshore lease sales in November 2025 and March 2026.³⁸ Those sales generated over \$347 million in revenue.³⁹ Additionally, MMA is currently revising the 2024 – 2029 National Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Leasing Program.⁴⁰ The revised plan will lead to a new schedule from 2026 to 2031. Labeled by stakeholders as the most restrictive five-year plan in history, the current program, authored by the Biden administration, offers only three lease sales over five years, confined to the central and western Gulf of America. The current draft of the revised program consists of as many as 34 offshore oil and gas lease sales in 21 areas.⁴¹

Advancing Deep-Sea Critical Minerals Exploration – On April 24, 2025, President Trump issued EO 14285, “Unleashing America’s Offshore Critical Minerals and Resources.”⁴² EO 14285 directs DOI and other agencies to expedite permitting, leasing, and development of seabed mineral resources on the OCS. The administration is advancing plans to hold the first-ever critical minerals lease sale in American Samoa, followed by two more in Alaska and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).⁴³ The administration views these actions as a significant step in responsibly developing our offshore mineral wealth and securing materials essential for energy, defense, and manufacturing.

Accelerating Permitting to Unleash American Energy – In a bold response to President Trump’s declaration of a National Energy Emergency,⁴⁴ Secretary Burgum issued a sweeping order to expedite National Environmental Policy Act permitting for domestic energy and critical mineral projects. As a result, DOI has reduced permitting timelines from years to just weeks, accelerating approvals for oil, gas, coal, critical minerals, geothermal, and other essential mineral resources.⁴⁵ This decisive action reaffirms Secretary Burgum’s commitment to cutting red tape, unleashing American energy, and ensuring that bureaucratic delays no longer stand in the way of national security, economic growth, and energy dominance.⁴⁶

Expanding Outdoor Access and Supporting Responsible Land Management Practices

Combating Wildfires and Other Natural Risks – President Trump and Secretary Burgum have elevated active forest management and wildfire response to major priorities within DOI. In 2025,

³⁸ See *Interior Advances American Offshore Energy Dominance with First Lease Sale Under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act*, U.S. DEP’T OF THE INTERIOR (Dec. 10, 2025), <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/energy-dominance-first-lease-sale-one-big>; *Interior Holds Second Lease Sale in the Gulf of America Under One Big Beautiful Bill Act Advancing American Energy Dominance*, U.S. DEP’T OF THE INTERIOR (Mar. 11, 2026), <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-holds-second-lease-sale-gulf-america-under-one-big-beautiful-bill-act>.

³⁹ *Id.*

⁴⁰ See *Interior Announces Eleventh National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program*, U.S. DEP’T OF THE INTERIOR (Apr. 18, 2025), <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-announces-eleventh-national-outer-continental-shelf-oil-and-gas-leasing>.

⁴¹ See BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT, 11TH NATIONAL OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF OIL AND GAS LEASING DRAFT PROPOSED PROGRAM: 1ST ANALYSIS AND PROPOSAL (Nov. 2025), https://www.boem.gov/sites/default/files/documents/oil-gas-energy/national-program/11th_National_OCS_Program_1stAnalysis_and_Proposal.pdf.

⁴² Exec. Order No. 14285, 90 Fed. Reg. 17735 (Apr. 24, 2025).

⁴³ U.S. DEP’T OF THE INTERIOR, BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION FISCAL YEAR 2027: MARINE MINERALS ADMINISTRATION (Apr. 2026), <https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2026-04/fy2027greenbookmma.pdf>.

⁴⁴ Exec. Order No. 14156, 90 Fed. Reg. 8433 (Jan. 20, 2025).

⁴⁵ See *Department of the Interior Implements Emergency Permitting Procedures to Strengthen Domestic Energy Supply*, U.S. DEP’T OF THE INTERIOR (Apr. 23, 2025), <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/department-interior-implements-emergency-permitting-procedures-strengthen-domestic>.

⁴⁶ *Id.*

EO 14308, “Empowering Commonsense Wildfire Prevention and Response,” set clear expectations for DOI and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to streamline wildfire efforts, improve coordination, and accelerate forest management activities.⁴⁷ Similarly, EO 14225, “Immediate Expansion of American Timber Production,” directed federal land managers to increase timber harvests by streamlining burdensome regulations and developing new tools to boost production.⁴⁸ DOI’s budget reflects this commitment, featuring proposals to unify wildland firefighting efforts and renew emphasis on active land management to mitigate wildfire risk on federal lands.

Fix Our Forests Act (FOFA) and Other Legislative Priorities – The FY 2027 DOI budget requests several new legislative authorities that closely align with Chairman Bruce Westerman’s (R-AR-04) H.R. 471, the “Fix Our Forests Act” (FOFA).⁴⁹ In particular, the budget proposes establishing a new Wildland Fire Intelligence Center, as codified by Section 102 of FOFA.⁵⁰ According to DOI, this center will “strengthen interagency and interdisciplinary coordination across the country’s wildland fire system, support implementation of EO 14308, and serve as a central hub for delivering integrated fire intelligence services.”⁵¹ Additionally, the budget recommends raising the acreage limitation on existing statutory categorical exclusions (CEs) from 3,000 to 10,000 acres and expanding the use of those CEs in high-priority areas, consistent with Section 106 of FOFA.⁵² These provisions “would increase the speed of implementation” of critical forest management projects, leading to a “decrease in administrative work” and “an increase in fuels management work in these targeted areas commensurate with the higher values at risk.”⁵³ Similarly, BLM’s budget proposes codifying the use of emergency authorities and expanding the existing U.S. Forest Service (USFS) insect and disease and wildfire resilience CEs to DOI, all consistent with FOFA.⁵⁴

To accelerate wildfire mitigation and recovery efforts, BLM’s budget includes additional proposals to streamline environmental reviews through the creation of two new CEs for salvage and thinning projects on public lands.⁵⁵ These authorities will expedite projects of up to 5,000 acres to quickly treat dead, dying, and overstocked forest stands.⁵⁶ Representatives Jeff Hurd (R-CO-03) and Troy Downing (R-MT-02) are leading efforts to codify the thinning and salvage proposals, respectively. Additionally, the budget also proposes creating a new CE for Giant Sequoia landscapes, consistent with the bipartisan H.R. 2709, the “Save Our Sequoias (SOS) Act,” which passed the House of Representatives by voice vote in early 2026.⁵⁷ Finally, BLM’s budget prioritizes the implementation of H.R. 1, the “Working Families Tax Cut Act,” which

⁴⁷ Exec. Order No. 14308, 90 Fed. Reg. 26175 (June 12, 2025).

⁴⁸ Exec. Order No. 14225, 90 Fed. Reg. 11365 (Mar. 1, 2025).

⁴⁹ Fix Our Forests Act, H.R. 471, 119th Cong. (as passed by House, Jan. 23, 2025).

⁵⁰ U.S. DEP’T OF THE INTERIOR, BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION FISCAL YEAR 2027: U.S. WILDLAND FIRE SERVICE (Apr. 2026), <https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2026-04/fy2027greenbookuswfs.pdf>.

⁵¹ *Id.*

⁵² *Id.*

⁵³ *Id.*

⁵⁴ U.S. DEP’T OF THE INTERIOR, BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION FISCAL YEAR 2027: BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (Apr. 2026), <https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2026-04/fy2027greenbookblm0.pdf>; Fix Our Forests Act, H.R. 471, 119th Cong. (as passed by House, Jan. 23, 2025).

⁵⁵ *Id.*

⁵⁶ See *National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures for Bureau of Land Management*, 91 Fed. Reg. 17299 (Apr. 6, 2026); *National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures for the Bureau of Land Management*, 91 Fed. Reg. 17302 (Apr. 6, 2026).

⁵⁷ Save Our Sequoias Act, H.R. 2709, 119th Cong. (as passed by House, Mar. 16, 2026).

will allow the agency to address “fire risk to communities, infrastructure, and high-risk ecosystems” while increasing timber production to support rural economies.⁵⁸

U.S. Wildland Fire Service (USWFS) – Notably, DOI’s FY 2027 budget proposes a “strategic unification of the wildland fire programs” at DOI and USFS by consolidating these programs into a single, unified entity at DOI, the U.S. Wildland Fire Service (USWFS).⁵⁹ USWFS’s mission is “to create an integrated and operationally more effective organization that streamlines Federal wildfire suppression response, risk mitigation, and coordination with non-Federal partners, including States, Tribes, and local communities.”⁶⁰ In total, the budget requests \$6.9 billion for USWFS, including \$3.96 billion for operations and \$2.95 billion for the Wildfire Suppression Operations Reserve Fund.⁶¹ This includes \$834 million for hazardous fuels management, an increase of \$620 million over the enacted level in FY 2026.⁶² The budget also fully funds a permanent pay increase for federal and tribal wildland firefighters, along with requesting a permanent extension of the premium pay cap waiver for wildland fire personnel.⁶³

Grazing on Public Lands – BLM administers roughly “18,000 grazing permits and leases on nearly 155 million acres of public land in nearly 22,000 grazing allotments.”⁶⁴ The FY 2027 budget identifies opening and maintaining land for livestock grazing as a core Presidential priority to ensure food security and serve as a targeted tool to help mitigate wildfire risk.⁶⁵ The budget commits to opening public lands that were previously closed to grazing, including areas “impacted by wild horse overpopulations,” and continuing efforts to “improve and streamline grazing permit processing to achieve greater efficiencies and service to permittees.”⁶⁶

Improving the Visitor Experience and Outdoor Recreation – The FY 2027 DOI budget prioritizes improving visitor experiences and park facilities across federally managed lands.⁶⁷ DOI-managed lands receive more than 565 million visits annually, placing increasing strain on aging infrastructure and visitor services.⁶⁸ In response, Secretary Burgum has emphasized repairing, restoring, and replacing “run down or inoperable facilities” to better meet visitor demand.⁶⁹ Recent efforts include reconstructing the entrance to Joshua Tree National Park, installing new freeze-resistant drinking fountains along trails adjacent to George Washington Memorial Parkway, and completing an initial round of recovery projects along the Blue Ridge

⁵⁸ U.S. DEP’T OF THE INTERIOR, BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION FISCAL YEAR 2027: BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (Apr. 2026), <https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2026-04/fy2027greenbookblm0.pdf>.

⁵⁹ U.S. DEP’T OF THE INTERIOR, BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION FISCAL YEAR 2027: U.S. WILDLAND FIRE SERVICE (Apr. 2026), <https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2026-04/fy2027greenbookuswfs.pdf>.

⁶⁰ U.S. DEP’T OF THE INTERIOR, FISCAL YEAR 2027 THE INTERIOR BUDGET IN BRIEF (Apr. 2026), <https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2026-04/2027bibentire-book508.pdf>.

⁶¹ *Id.*

⁶² *Id.*

⁶³ *Id.*

⁶⁴ *Id.*; U.S. DEP’T OF THE INTERIOR, BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION FISCAL YEAR 2027: BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (Apr. 2026), <https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2026-04/fy2027greenbookblm0.pdf>.

⁶⁵ U.S. DEP’T OF THE INTERIOR, BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION FISCAL YEAR 2027: BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (Apr. 2026), <https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2026-04/fy2027greenbookblm0.pdf>; U.S. DEP’T OF THE INTERIOR, FISCAL YEAR 2027 THE INTERIOR BUDGET IN BRIEF (Apr. 2026), <https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2026-04/2027bibentire-book508.pdf>.

⁶⁶ U.S. DEP’T OF THE INTERIOR, FISCAL YEAR 2027 THE INTERIOR BUDGET IN BRIEF (Apr. 2026), <https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2026-04/2027bibentire-book508.pdf>.

⁶⁷ *Id.*

⁶⁸ *Id.*

⁶⁹ *Id.*

Parkway after damage caused by Hurricane Helene.⁷⁰ The investments proposed throughout the budget will support projects nationwide, including those tied to preparations for America’s 250th anniversary.⁷¹ These requests also support the implementation of the “Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences (EXPLORE) Act”.⁷² Committee Republicans will continue to work with the Trump administration to fully implement the EXPLORE Act, ensuring that public lands remain accessible, functional, and welcoming for all Americans.

Great American Outdoors Act Reauthorization – In 2020, Congress passed, and President Trump signed into law, the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA), marking an unprecedented investment in national parks and public lands to ensure that these resources remain a source of pride for future generations.⁷³ DOI manages an infrastructure asset portfolio valued at more than \$440 billion across national parks, public lands, national wildlife refuges, and Bureau of Indian Education-funded schools.⁷⁴ Despite this historic investment, mismanagement under the Biden administration caused DOI’s deferred maintenance backlog to balloon from \$16.4 billion in 2019 to \$35.4 billion in 2025.⁷⁵ The FY 2027 DOI budget proposes reauthorizing GAOA’s Legacy Restoration Fund at current levels (\$1.9 billion annually) for five years.⁷⁶ In addition, consistent with EO 14314, “Making America Beautiful Again by Improving Our National Parks,” the administration is implementing “America-first” entry-fee policies to enhance access for American citizens while generating additional revenue for park improvements.⁷⁷ Committee Republicans intend to work closely with the administration to ensure that national parks and public lands have sustainable, long-term funding mechanisms to reduce deferred maintenance backlogs, expand access, and improve visitor experience, all while maintaining strong accountability and oversight concerning the expenditure of GAOA funds.

Presidential Capital Stewardship Program (Washington, D.C.) – The FY 2027 budget proposes \$10 billion in permanent funding to establish a Presidential Capital Stewardship Program within the National Park Service (NPS) focused on Washington, D.C.⁷⁸ NPS currently manages 25 parks, four national trails, three public golf courses, 74 historic landmarks, and 151 archeological sites within the District, including the iconic National Mall, Rock Creek Park, and Theodore Roosevelt Island.⁷⁹ The Presidential Capital Stewardship Program would rehabilitate historic infrastructure and public spaces to improve safety, accessibility, and overall visitor experience in the nation’s capital. This expansion of NPS responsibilities would represent a “generational

⁷⁰ *Id.*

⁷¹ *Id.*

⁷² Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences Act, Pub. L. No. 118-234 (Jan. 4, 2025), <https://www.congress.gov/118/plaws/publ234/PLAW-118publ234.pdf>.

⁷³ Great American Outdoors Act, Pub. L. No. 116-152 (Aug. 4, 2020), <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1957>.

⁷⁴ U.S. DEP’T OF THE INTERIOR, FISCAL YEAR 2027 THE INTERIOR BUDGET IN BRIEF (Apr. 2026), <https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2026-04/2027bibentire-book508.pdf>.

⁷⁵ See *Deferred Maintenance & Repair*, U.S. DEP’T OF THE INTERIOR (May 2026), <https://www.doi.gov/deferred-maintenance-and-repair>.

⁷⁶ U.S. DEP’T OF THE INTERIOR, FISCAL YEAR 2027 THE INTERIOR BUDGET IN BRIEF (Apr. 2026), <https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2026-04/2027bibentire-book508.pdf>.

⁷⁷ Exec. Order No. 14314, 90 Fed. Reg. 30201 (July 3, 2025).

⁷⁸ U.S. DEP’T OF THE INTERIOR, BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION FISCAL YEAR 2027: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (Apr. 2026), https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2026-04/fy2027greenbooknps_0.pdf.

⁷⁹ See *District of Columbia Parks*, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (Apr. 2026), <https://www.nps.gov/state/dc/index.htm>.

investment” to revitalize Washington, D.C., during America’s 250th anniversary, with the goal of supporting economic development and reducing future infrastructure lifecycle costs.⁸⁰

Bolstering America’s National Security and Public Safety

Maintaining a Secure Border – Immediately upon taking office, President Trump acted to secure America’s southern border and halt the devastating environmental consequences of illegal immigration.⁸¹ Under the Biden administration, illegal immigrants left behind mountains of trash and abandoned campfires, which contaminated drinking water, sparked wildfires, and devastated wildlife habitat along the estimated 693 miles, or roughly 35 percent, of the U.S.-Mexico border that abuts federal land.⁸² On the first day of his second term, however, President Trump issued four EOs and proclamations that quickly ended America’s border crisis.⁸³ Within the first 100 days of the Trump administration, illegal migrant crossings were down by 99.99 percent, encounters with “getaways ” were down by 95 percent, and daily border encounters were down by 93 percent compared to the Biden administration.⁸⁴ April 9, 2026 marked U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s 11th consecutive month of zero releases at the southern border.⁸⁵

To continue essential operations along the border and enable the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to finish construction of the border wall, at least \$31.4 billion of the \$190 billion Working Families Tax Cut (WFTC) multiyear budget authority will be allocated in 2027.⁸⁶ Additionally, the FY 2027 proposed budget eliminates the Shelter and Services Program. While programs within DHS are outside the jurisdiction of the Committee , the Shelter and Services Program is notable as it was used by the City of New York to pay for services at Floyd Bennett Field in Gateway National Recreation Area and other migrant camps across the city.⁸⁷

Law Enforcement and Visitor Safety – DOI law enforcement personnel are responsible for enforcing federal laws and regulations across all DOI-managed lands, with a focus on protecting park resources, preventing illegal activities, and ensuring visitor safety.⁸⁸ To protect public safety and federal resources across DOI, the FY 2027 budget prioritizes robust funding for law enforcement and officer health and safety programs.⁸⁹ This includes increases of \$118 million for BLM’s Resource Protection and Law Enforcement account, \$3 million for U.S. Fish and

⁸⁰ U.S. DEP’T OF THE INTERIOR, BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION FISCAL YEAR 2027: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (Apr. 2026), https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2026-04/fy2027greenbooknps_0.pdf.

⁸¹ See, e.g., Proclamation No. 10886, 90 Fed. Reg. 8327 (Jan. 20, 2025); Exec. Order No. 14165, 90 Fed. Reg. 8467 (Jan. 20, 2025); Proclamation No. 10888, 90 Fed. Reg. 8333 (Jan. 20, 2025); Exec. Order No. 14159, 90 Fed. Reg. 8443 (Jan. 20, 2025); Exec. Order No. 14287, 90 Fed. Reg. 18761 (Apr. 28, 2025).

⁸² The estimate of federal land on the southern border ranges from 632 miles to 820 miles. See CAROL HARDY VINCENT, CONG. RSCH. SERV., IF10832, FEDERAL AND INDIAN LANDS ON THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER (Feb. 21, 2018), <https://www.crs.gov/Reports/IF10832>.

⁸³ See Proclamation No. 10886, 90 Fed. Reg. 8327 (Jan. 20, 2025); Exec. Order No. 14165, 90 Fed. Reg. 8467 (Jan. 20, 2025); Proclamation No. 10888, 90 Fed. Reg. 8333 (Jan. 20, 2025); Exec. Order No. 14159, 90 Fed. Reg. 8443 (Jan. 20, 2025).

⁸⁴ *Id.*

⁸⁵ See *National Media Release: Trump administration delivers 11 straight months of zero releases at the border*, U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION (Apr. 9, 2026), <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/trump-administration-delivers-11-straight-months-zero-releases>.

⁸⁶ OFF. OF MGMT. & BUDGET, EXEC. OFF. OF THE PRESIDENT, BUDGET OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, FISCAL YEAR 2027 (Apr. 20, 2026), https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/budget_fy2027.pdf.

⁸⁷ *Id.*

⁸⁸ *Id.*

⁸⁹ *Id.*

Wildlife Service (FWS) Refuge Law Enforcement, and \$111.6 million for NPS’s U.S. Park Police (USPP).⁹⁰ The increase for USPP actively supports efforts to end D.C.’s crime emergency, as announced under EO 14333, “Declaring a Crime Emergency in the District of Columbia,” and EO 14339, “Additional Measures To Address the Crime Emergency in the District of Columbia.”⁹¹ These resources have enabled USPP to accelerate hiring, with more than 300 new officers added to support safety and security across the nation’s capital and other high-traffic park units.⁹²

The budget also supports DOI law enforcement personnel’s continued efforts to address illegal activity on public lands and secure our nation’s border. DOI has “removed millions of dollars’ worth of opioids, including fentanyl and other drugs from our communities; locked up criminals; and saved lives.”⁹³ In a single operation last year in a national park, officers removed “nearly 2,400 marijuana plants, 1 ton of trash, and stores of banned pesticides from an illegal growing operation.”⁹⁴ DOI has also prioritized recruitment and retention of law enforcement personnel. In recognition of their service, Secretary Burgum announced a 3.8 percent pay increase for all DOI law enforcement officers, pursuant to EO 14368, “Adjustments of Certain Rates of Pay,” to strengthen workforce capacity and operational readiness.⁹⁵

Modernizing Infrastructure and Reducing Regulatory Red Tape

Western Water – President Trump and Secretary Burgum have made water delivery in California and the western U.S. a major priority. Their actions include prioritizing large-scale infrastructure investments and regulatory streamlining to maximize water deliveries across the West. Central to this effort is the significant investment made available for water storage and conveyance projects under the Working Families Tax Cuts. On March 17, 2026, DOI allocated nearly \$890 million for Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) projects across six states.⁹⁶ The largest share of this funding, approximately \$540 million, is directed toward California to modernize aging conveyance systems, like the Delta-Mendota Canal, and to advance storage projects, such as raising Shasta Dam.⁹⁷ Other significant allocations include \$100 million each for projects in Utah, Wyoming, and North Dakota to repair tunnels and enclose canals, which are aimed at reducing water loss, improving delivery efficiency, and preventing catastrophic failure.⁹⁸

In addition to infrastructure investments, President Trump and Secretary Burgum have taken action to fix regulatory bottlenecks and expedite the construction of water infrastructure. On November 20, 2025, Secretary Burgum signed Secretarial Order (SO) 3446, “Cutting Red Tape and Reducing Consumer Costs at Reclamation Construction Projects,” initiating a transformative

⁹⁰ *Id.*

⁹¹ Exec. Order No. 14399, 90 Fed. Reg. 42121 (Aug. 25, 2025); Exec. Order No. 14333, 90 Fed. Reg. 39301 (Aug. 11, 2025).

⁹² U.S. DEP’T OF THE INTERIOR, FISCAL YEAR 2027 THE INTERIOR BUDGET IN BRIEF (Apr. 2026), <https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2026-04/2027birentire-book508.pdf>.

⁹³ *Id.*

⁹⁴ *Id.*

⁹⁵ Exec. Order No. 14368, 90 Fed. Reg. 60521 (Dec. 18, 2025).

⁹⁶ See *Interior Announces \$889 Million Investment in Western Water Infrastructure Through President Trump’s One Big Beautiful Bill*, U.S. DEP’T OF THE INTERIOR (Mar. 17, 2026), <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-announces-889-million-investment-western-water-infrastructure-through>.

⁹⁷ *Id.*

⁹⁸ *Id.*

shift in how federally funded Reclamation projects are delivered across the West by allowing local water and power users to lead project procurement and construction management.⁹⁹ This partner-led approach is designed to expedite project delivery and improve efficiency, while maintaining federal oversight.¹⁰⁰

DOI has also worked aggressively to implement EO 14181, “Emergency Measures to Provide Water Resources in California and Improve Disaster Response in Certain Areas.”¹⁰¹ In total, Reclamation has made more than 200,000 acre-feet (AF) of water available, enough to supply more than 500,000 people for a year.¹⁰² On January 23, 2026, DOI signed a record of decision authorizing Reclamation to provide up to 25 percent of the costs for the Sites Reservoir Project, a new off-stream storage reservoir in California with a capacity of 1.5 million AF.¹⁰³

On December 2, 2025, Reclamation revised the long-term operations of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP), taking advantage of flexibilities within the existing biological opinion for project operations and increasing annual water deliveries by an estimated 130,000-180,000 AF for the CVP.¹⁰⁴ This record of decision, commonly referred to as Action 5, has the potential to increase annual water deliveries from the SWP by an estimated 120,000-220,000 AF; however, the state of California has not incorporated Action 5 into its own project operations, reducing water supplies for farms and families dependent on the SWP.¹⁰⁵

Endangered Species Act (ESA) – The Trump administration has also repealed Biden-era rulemakings governing implementation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). On November 19, 2025, FWS proposed four rulemakings concerning how species are listed and delisted, how critical habitat can be designated, and how ESA Section 7 consultation should be conducted.¹⁰⁶ These rulemakings replace those that were promulgated under the Biden administration in 2023.

Further, on March 31, 2026, the ESA Committee met for the first time in over three decades to consider providing an exemption for oil and gas operations in the Gulf of America from certain ESA requirements.¹⁰⁷ This action was precipitated by a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland that threatened to shut down existing oil and gas operations on ESA grounds.¹⁰⁸ The ESA Committee, often referred to as the “God Squad,” is a cabinet-level

⁹⁹ U.S. DEP’T OF THE INTERIOR, Order No. 3446, CUTTING RED TAPE AND REDUCING CONSUMER COSTS AT RECLAMATION CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS (Nov. 20, 2025), <https://www.doi.gov/document-library/secretary-order/so-3446-cutting-red-tape-and-reducing-consumer-costs-reclamation>.

¹⁰⁰ *Id.*

¹⁰¹ Exec. Order No. 14181, 90 Fed. Reg. 8747 (Jan. 24, 2025).

¹⁰² See *Interior Advances President Trump’s Executive Order 14181 Priorities, Approves Sites Reservoir Project to Strengthen California Water Reliability*, U.S. DEP’T OF THE INTERIOR (Jan. 23, 2026), <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-advances-president-trumps-executive-order-14181-priorities-approves-sites>.

¹⁰³ *Id.*

¹⁰⁴ See *Maximizing Water Deliveries for California*, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION CALIFORNIA-GREAT BASIN REGION (Dec. 3, 2025), <https://www.usbr.gov/mp/mpr-news/docs/factsheets/action5-fact-sheet-12-3-2025.pdf>.

¹⁰⁵ *Id.*

¹⁰⁶ See *Administration Revises Endangered Species Act Regulations to Strengthen Certainty, Reduce Burdens and Uphold the Law*, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (Nov. 19, 2025), <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/administration-revises-endangered-species-act-regulations-strengthen-certainty>.

¹⁰⁷ See *Gulf of America Oil and Gas Activities*, Endangered Species Comm., 119th Cong. (Mar. 31, 2026) (final decision), <https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2026-03/endangered-species-committee-order.pdf>.

¹⁰⁸ See *Sierra Club v. National Marine Fisheries Service*, No. 8:2020cv03060, 2024 U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland, <https://law.justia.com/cases/federal/district-courts/maryland/mddce/8:2020cv03060/486465/204/>.

committee that has the authority under the ESA to exempt a project from ESA requirements if certain criteria are met, including if an exemption is necessary for national security reasons. In this case, the Committee voted unanimously to provide an exemption based on national security grounds.¹⁰⁹ However, oil and gas operators must still abide by the mitigation proposed in the 2025 biological opinion for the Gulf of America.

Additionally, DOI's budget request contains a \$19.6 million increase for priority recovery activities under the ESA.¹¹⁰ According to the request, this funding would be used for a "new multi-year recovery prioritization initiative to catalyze and support high-priority recovery activities that contribute to conservation actions outlined in [FWS] recovery plans for priority species."¹¹¹ The budget request also includes a \$2.6 million increase in funding for delisting and downlisting of species listed under the ESA.¹¹²

DOI's budget request also contains a proposal to consolidate the ESA implementation work of FWS and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) into one program under DOI.¹¹³ Currently, FWS is charged with administering the ESA for terrestrial and freshwater species, while NMFS administers the statute for marine and anadromous species. Under the proposed merger, FWS would administer all ESA functions.

Expanding Access to Hunting and Fishing – On January 7, 2026, Secretary Burgum signed SO 3447, which directed DOI bureaus and offices to expand access for hunting and fishing on DOI-managed lands and waters.¹¹⁴ Specifically, the order mandates those lands and waters to be considered open for hunting and fishing, unless existing authorities and unit purposes require an area to be closed. This change charts a path forward towards opening thousands of acres of federal land to responsible hunting and fishing.

Supporting Tribal Nations and Insular Areas

The federal government, bound by treaty and trust obligations, must support the unique government-to-government relationship between the U.S. and the 575 federally recognized tribes. These obligations and federal policies support tribal self-determination across core areas of the federal trust responsibility, including public safety, trust asset management, healthcare, education, and natural resource management.

Tribal Government – President Trump and Secretary Burgum renewed their commitment to solve American Indian and Alaskan Native missing and unidentified persons cases through Operation Spirit Return.¹¹⁵ Moreover, DOI's FY 2027 budget requests \$560.3 million for Public

¹⁰⁹ See *Gulf of America Oil and Gas Activities*, Endangered Species Comm., 119th Cong. (Mar. 31, 2026) (final decision), <https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2026-03/endangered-species-committee-order.pdf>.

¹¹⁰ U.S. DEP'T OF THE INTERIOR, BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION FISCAL YEAR 2027: FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (Apr. 2026), https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2026-04/fy2027greenbookfws_1.pdf.

¹¹¹ *Id.*

¹¹² *Id.*

¹¹³ *Id.*

¹¹⁴ U.S. DEP'T OF THE INTERIOR, Order No. 3447, EXPANDING HUNTING AND FISHING ACCESS, REMOVING UNNECESSARY BARRIERS, AND ENSURING CONSISTENCY ACROSS THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR LANDS AND WATERS (Jan. 7, 2026), <https://www.doi.gov/document-library/secretary-order/so-3447-expanding-hunting-and-fishing-access-removing-unnecessary>.

¹¹⁵ U.S. DEP'T OF THE INTERIOR, FISCAL YEAR 2027 THE INTERIOR BUDGET IN BRIEF (Apr. 2026), <https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2026-04/2027bibtire-book508.pdf>.

Safety and Justice activities within the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), including \$286.4 million for Criminal Investigation and Police services, and \$142.4 million for Detentions and Corrections.¹¹⁶

To advance tribal self-determination, DOI's FY 2027 budget proposes \$459.9 million for Tribal Priority Allocations, allowing tribes to set their own priorities and direct resources to programs in this category as they deem fit.¹¹⁷ DOI's budget also proposes fully funding Contract Support Costs at \$215.9 million and Payments for Tribal Leases at \$147.6 million, including section 105(l) tribal facility lease agreements. These accounts help tribes assume responsibility for operating federal programs without being penalized for the administrative and facility costs associated with carrying out those responsibilities.¹¹⁸

DOI's FY 2027 budget also proposes a \$7.1 million increase for Trust-Real Estate Services Central Oversight to modernize probate processes and reduce the decades-old probate backlog.¹¹⁹ The backlog hinders tribal trust lands from reaching their full economic and operational potential.¹²⁰ The funding supports probate surge operations, promotes "performance-driven incentives," and bolsters capacity to process the growing probate backlog.¹²¹ Modernizing outdated and inefficient procedures aligns with President Trump's and Secretary Burgum's agenda to restore government effectiveness by eliminating delays and duplicative reviews.

Tribal Education – DOI remains committed to improving education standards under the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), with DOI's FY 2027 budget requesting a \$6 million program increase for the Indian School Equalization Program, enabling BIE to hire additional teachers, administrators, and critical support staff.¹²² DOI also requests a \$5.5 million increase in the Student Transportation program to help students commute to school reliably and support improved attendance and academic performance.¹²³ To fund tribally operated BIE schools, DOI requests \$93.5 million for Tribal Grant Support Costs.¹²⁴

Tribal Energy – Tribal lands hold significant untapped energy resources. Accordingly, streamlining permitting and improving leasing processes on tribal lands is paramount to strengthening tribal economic self-determination. DOI recognizes this need and requests a \$388,000 program increase and two additional full-time equivalents for its energy- and minerals-related work, including support for the Indian Energy Service Center (Center).¹²⁵ The Center works across DOI's bureaus to modernize and support the efficient development of Indian energy and mineral resources, including by coordinating BIA leasing, BLM APD approval and

¹¹⁶ *Id.*

¹¹⁷ *Id.*

¹¹⁸ U.S. DEP'T OF THE INTERIOR, BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION FISCAL YEAR 2027: BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS (Apr. 2026), https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2026-04/fy2027greenbookbia_0.pdf.

¹¹⁹ *Id.*

¹²⁰ *Id.*

¹²¹ *Id.*

¹²² U.S. DEP'T OF THE INTERIOR, FISCAL YEAR 2027 THE INTERIOR BUDGET IN BRIEF (Apr. 2026), <https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2026-04/2027bientire-book508.pdf>.

¹²³ *Id.*

¹²⁴ *Id.*

¹²⁵ U.S. DEP'T OF THE INTERIOR, BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION FISCAL YEAR 2027: BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS (Apr. 2026), https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2026-04/fy2027greenbookbia_0.pdf.

monitoring, and Office of Natural Resources Revenue accounting responsibilities.¹²⁶

As part of ongoing efforts to reverse the Biden administration’s disastrous energy policies, President Trump and Secretary Burgum have acknowledged the potential to expand tribal energy resource production. Tribal energy developments underpin America’s global energy status and boost domestic energy independence.¹²⁷ In conjunction with EO 14154, “Unleashing American Energy,” and Chairman Westerman’s H.R. 4776, the “SPEED Act,” bipartisan legislation that passed the House of Representatives in December 2025, the Center’s funding increases tribal energy resource production and generates needed revenue to finance essential tribal community services.¹²⁸

U.S. Insular Areas – Consistent with President Trump’s efforts to expand American energy dominance, DOI’s FY 2027 budget includes \$16.5 million for the Energizing Insular Communities (EIC) Grant Program, a roughly \$1.5 million increase over FY 2026. Recognizing the considerable logistical challenges of transporting oil and natural gas across the vast distances between the island territories, the EIC Grant Program will help reduce the territories’ dependence on foreign suppliers.¹²⁹ Greater access to reliable American energy resources will help lower electricity costs for territorial consumers and reduce import expenditures.¹³⁰

¹²⁶ See *Our Mission*, INDIAN ENERGY SERVICE CENTER (2026), <https://www.bia.gov/bia/ots/iesc>.

¹²⁷ See Tribal Natural Resource Development: Barriers and Successes: Hearing Before the Subcomm. on Indian and Insular Affairs of the H. Comm. On Natural Resources, 119th Cong. (2026) (hearing memorandum), <https://docs.house.gov/meetings/II/II24/20260422/119108/HHRG-119-II24-20260422-SD002.pdf>.

¹²⁸ *Id.*

¹²⁹ U.S. DEP’T OF THE INTERIOR, BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION FISCAL YEAR 2027: OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS (Apr. 2026), <https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2025-07/oia-2026-greenbook508.pdf>.

¹³⁰ *Id.*