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Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies: Overview of FY2024 Appropriations

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Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies: Overview of FY2024 Appropriations

The Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill—often called the Interior bill—contains funding for about three dozen agencies and entities. Funded entities include most of the Department of the Interior (DOI) and agencies within other departments, such as the Forest Service (Department of Agriculture) and the Indian Health Service (Department of Health and Human Services). The bill also provides funding for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), arts and cultural agencies, and other organizations and entities. Perennial issues for Congress include determining the amount, terms, and conditions of funding for agencies and programs.

As of January 14, 2024, Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies generally are receiving appropriations for FY2024 under continuing resolutions (CRs) providing appropriations at FY2023 levels. Full year appropriations for FY2024 have not been enacted. The most recent CR (P.L. 118-22) provides funding for agencies in the Interior bill through February 2, 2024, unless different levels of appropriations are enacted earlier.

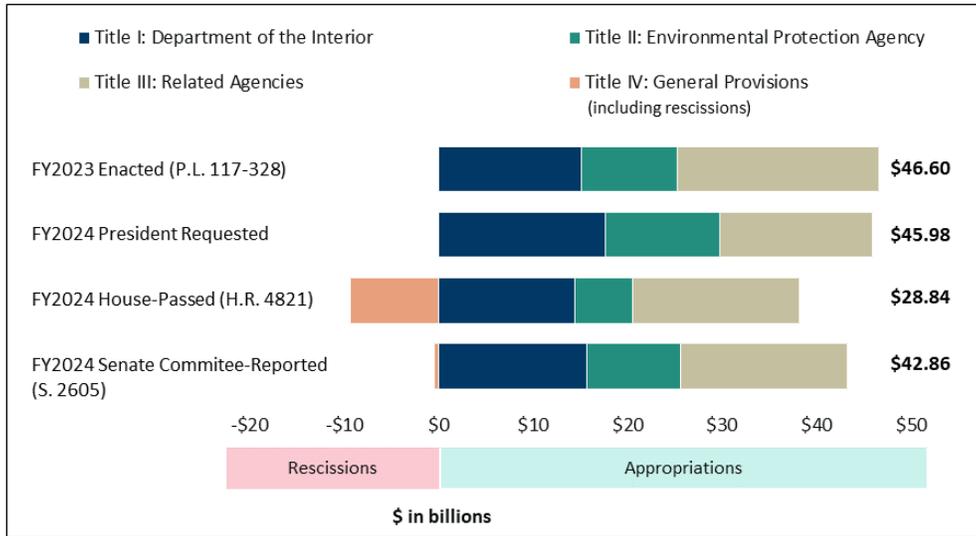
For FY2024, President Biden requested \$45.98 billion for the roughly three dozen agencies and entities funded in the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. On November 3, 2023, the House passed H.R. 4821 with \$28.84 billion for Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies for FY2024. On July 27, 2023, the Senate Appropriations Committee reported S. 2605 (S.Rept. 118-83), with \$42.86 billion for the Interior bill for FY2024. All three totals included \$2.65 billion for certain wildfire suppression activities under an adjustment to discretionary spending limits for FY2024.

For FY2023, \$46.60 billion was appropriated for the Interior bill in Division G, Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2023, of P.L. 117-328, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023. This total included \$2.55 billion for wildfire suppression under the discretionary cap adjustment (the maximum available for that year). The FY2023 appropriation was \$614.3 million higher than the FY2024 President's request, \$17.75 billion higher than the FY2024 House-passed level, and \$3.74 billion higher than the FY2024 Senate committee-reported total.

Issues affecting comparisons between the two fiscal years, and comparisons among FY2024 amounts, relate to advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service and rescissions of appropriations, among other matters. With regard to the Indian Health Service, for example, the FY2023 appropriation in this report reflects the entirety of new funding for one fiscal year—FY2023—as well as partial funding for FY2024 through advance funding. By contrast, the FY2024 request, House-passed bill, and Senate committee-reported levels do not reflect the entirety of funding for one fiscal year. Rather, they reflect *new* funding for FY2024 but not the advance funding provided in the FY2023 law. The House-passed bill and Senate committee-reported totals also reflect advance funding for FY2025.

With regard to rescissions, the total Interior bill appropriations in this report reflect rescissions of prior year appropriations. For example, the FY2024 House-passed total (\$28.84 billion) reflects rescissions and other reductions in Title IV of H.R. 4821 that total \$9.39 billion. These rescissions/reductions are treated as an offset to new appropriations of \$38.23 billion in the bill, resulting in a total appropriation of \$28.84 billion. A comparison of new appropriations only would reduce the difference between the FY2024 House-passed total and the FY2023 enacted, FY2024 requested, and FY2024 Senate committee-reported totals.

Appropriations for Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, by Major Title, FY2023-FY2024



Source: Prepared by CRS with data from the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

Notes: In general, amounts reflected in the figure represent regular annual appropriations for the pertinent fiscal year (FY2023 or FY2024), rescissions of prior year appropriations, and advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service (in Title III). Also, the House-passed total of \$28.84 billion reflects new appropriations of \$38.23 billion and \$9.39 billion in rescissions/reductions. The Senate committee-reported total of \$42.86 billion reflects new appropriations of \$43.31 billion and rescissions of \$450.0 million.

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Introduction

This report focuses on FY2024 discretionary appropriations for Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies. Issues for Congress include determining the amount of funding for agencies and programs in the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill—often called the *Interior bill*—and the terms and conditions of such funding.

This report focuses on the regular (annual) appropriations for the Interior bill. It first presents a short overview of FY2024 legislative action. It next provides a brief comparison of FY2023 enacted appropriations and FY2024 appropriations requested by President Biden, included in H.R. 4821 as passed by the House, and included in S. 2625 as reported by the Senate Committee on Appropriations.¹ The report then provides an overview of the agencies and other entities funded in the Interior bill. Finally, the report contains a table showing appropriations by agency/entity for FY2023 enacted, FY2024 requested, FY2024 House-passed, and FY2024 Senate committee-reported. Agency and bill totals in this report generally reflect rescissions. In general, this report does not detail mandatory, supplemental, and advance appropriations.²

Appropriations are complex. Budget justifications for some agencies are large (often hundreds of pages long) and contain numerous funding, programmatic, and legislative changes for congressional consideration. Further, appropriations laws provide funds for numerous accounts, activities, and sub-activities, and their accompanying explanatory statements provide additional directives and other important information. This report does not provide in-depth information at the agency, account, and subaccount levels, nor does it generally detail budgetary reorganizations or legislative changes proposed or enacted for FY2024. For information on a particular agency or on individual accounts, programs, or activities administered by a particular agency, see the Congressional Research Service (CRS) products provided in footnotes throughout this report or contact the key policy staff listed at the end of this report.³ In addition, selected reports related to appropriations for Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, such as individual agencies (e.g., National Park Service) or crosscutting programs (e.g., Wildland Fire Management), are listed under “Interior & Environment Appropriations” on the “Appropriations” Issue Area page on the CRS website.⁴

Overview of FY2024 Legislative Action

As of January 14, 2024, agencies and activities funded in the Interior bill generally are receiving appropriations for FY2024 under continuing resolutions (CRs) that provide appropriations at

¹ The accompanying committee report was U.S. Congress, Senate Committee on Appropriations, *Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2024*, report to accompany S. 2605, 118th Cong., 1st sess., S.Rept. 118-83, July 27, 2023 (hereinafter cited as S.Rept. 118-83).

² As examples, this report excludes emergency supplemental appropriations (e.g., \$6.15 billion in FY2023 for disaster relief in Division N, Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023, of P.L. 117-328, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023); advance and emergency advance appropriations (e.g., in Division J, Appropriations, of P.L. 117-58, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act); and mandatory appropriations under authorizing statutes, such as under P.L. 116-152, the Great American Outdoors Act, which provided mandatory appropriations for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and deferred maintenance of federal land management agencies and the Bureau of Indian Education.

³ This report provides in footnotes the most recent CRS products covering appropriations for agencies in the Interior bill.

⁴ The “Interior & Environment Appropriations” subissue page is on the CRS website at <https://www.crs.gov/iap/appropriations> (under “All Subissues”).

FY2023 levels.⁵ Full year appropriations for FY2024 have not been enacted. However, the CRs have contained certain exceptions, for instance, for wildland firefighter management and pay.⁶ The most recent CR (P.L. 118-22) provides funding for agencies in the Interior bill through February 2, 2024, unless different levels of appropriations are enacted earlier.

For FY2024, President Biden requested \$45.98 billion for the roughly three dozen agencies and entities funded in the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. This total included \$2.65 billion for certain wildfire suppression activities under an adjustment to discretionary spending limits for FY2024. Under law, an adjustment can be made to discretionary spending limits to accommodate enacted funding for wildfire suppression.⁷ The total also contained \$4.15 billion for the Indian Health Service,⁸ of which \$1.20 billion was for two accounts that the President proposed to make mandatory spending.⁹ The request did not contain advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service for FY2025.

On November 3, 2023, the House passed H.R. 4821 with \$28.84 billion for Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies. This total included \$2.65 billion for wildfire suppression under the discretionary cap adjustment, as requested by the President. This total also included \$7.83 billion for the Indian Health Service, reflecting \$5.88 billion in FY2025 advance appropriations for the agency.¹⁰ In earlier action, on July 24, 2023, the House Appropriations Committee reported H.R. 4821, with \$28.88 billion for Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies in FY2024.¹¹

On July 27, 2023, the Senate Appropriations Committee reported S. 2605, with \$42.86 billion for Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies for FY2024.¹² (Hereinafter, this bill typically is referred to as the *Senate committee-reported bill*.) The Senate committee-reported total included \$2.65 billion for wildfire suppression under the cap adjustment, identical to the President's

⁵ The first continuing resolution, P.L. 118-15, was in effect through November 17, 2023. The current continuing resolution, P.L. 118-22, is in effect through February 2, 2024, for agencies in the Interior bill.

⁶ Such exceptions often are referred to as *anomalies*. For a discussion of the exceptions in the first continuing resolution related to the Interior bill (as well as other appropriations bills), see CRS Report R47749, *Overview of Continuing Appropriations for FY2024 (Division A of P.L. 118-15)*, by Drew C. Aherne.

⁷ This authority is contained in Division O, the Wildfire Suppression Funding and Forest Management Activities Act, of P.L. 115-141, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018. The adjustment may not exceed specified amounts for each of FY2020-FY2027. For information on discretionary spending limits, see CRS In Focus IF10647, *The Budget Resolution and the Budget Control Act's Discretionary Spending Limits*, by Megan S. Lynch; CRS Report R44874, *The Budget Control Act: Frequently Asked Questions*, by Grant A. Driessen and Megan S. Lynch; and CRS Report R45778, *Exceptions to the Budget Control Act's Discretionary Spending Limits*, by Megan S. Lynch, especially the "Wildfire Suppression" section. For a discussion of the cap adjustment for wildfire suppression, see CRS In Focus IF12398, *Funding for Wildfire Management: FY2024 Appropriations for Forest Service and Department of the Interior*, by Anne A. Riddle, and CRS Report R46583, *Federal Wildfire Management: Ten-Year Funding Trends and Issues (FY2011-FY2020)*, by Anne A. Riddle.

⁸ See S.Rept. 118-83, p. 218.

⁹ The two accounts are Contract Support Costs and Payments for Tribal Leases. See S.Rept. 118-83, p. 217. Also, the President's FY2024 budget request for the Indian Health Service contains discussion in several places on mandatory appropriations for the agency. See U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service, *Fiscal Year 2024, Indian Health Service, Justification of Estimates for Appropriations Committees*, at https://www.ihs.gov/sites/budgetformulation/themes/responsive2017/display_objects/documents/FY2024-IHS-CJ32223.pdf.

¹⁰ For information on advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service, see CRS Insight IN12087, *Advance Appropriations for the Indian Health Service (IHS)*, by Elayne J. Heisler and Jessica Tollestrup, and CRS Report R46265, *Advance Appropriations for the Indian Health Service: Issues and Options for Congress*, by Elayne J. Heisler and Kate P. McClanahan.

¹¹ The accompanying committee report was U.S. Congress, House Committee on Appropriations, *Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2024*, report to accompany H.R. 4821, 118th Cong., 1st sess., H.Rept. 118-155, July 24, 2023 (hereinafter cited as H.Rept. 118-155).

¹² As noted, the accompanying Senate committee report was S.Rept. 118-83.

request and the House committee-reported bill. This total also included \$7.28 billion for the Indian Health Service, of which \$5.23 billion was FY2025 advance appropriations for the agency.

On December 29, 2022, the President signed into law a measure containing \$46.60 billion for Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies for FY2023. These appropriations were contained in Division G, Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2023, of P.L. 117-328, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023. This total included \$2.55 billion for wildfire suppression under the discretionary cap adjustment (the maximum available for that year). This total also included \$5.13 billion in advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service for FY2024.

Brief Comparison of FY2023 and FY2024 Interior Appropriations

Different methods of comparing Interior appropriations would lead to varying dollar and percentage differences between FY2023 enacted and FY2024 appropriations. Using one comparative approach (discussed below), FY2023 enacted appropriations for Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies were higher than appropriations requested by the President for FY2024, passed by the House for FY2024 (in H.R. 4821), and reported by the Senate Appropriations Committee for FY2024 (in S. 2605). Specifically, the FY2023 appropriation was \$614.3 million higher than the FY2024 President's request, \$17.75 billion higher than the FY2024 House-passed level, and \$3.74 billion higher than the FY2024 Senate committee-reported total. **Error! Reference source not found.** and **Table 1** detail this comparison.

Issues affecting comparisons of the two fiscal years, and comparisons among FY2024 amounts, relate to advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service and rescissions of appropriations, among other matters. With regard to the Indian Health Service, the FY2023 appropriation in this report (\$12.06 billion) reflects new appropriations for FY2023 (\$6.96 billion) and advance appropriations for FY2024 (\$5.13 billion) that were enacted in the FY2023 appropriations law, as well as a rescission of \$29.4 million.¹³ The FY2024 President's request (\$4.15 billion) did not include advance appropriations for FY2025.¹⁴ The House-passed level (\$7.83 billion) and the Senate committee-reported level (\$7.28 billion) in this report reflect new appropriations for FY2024 and advance appropriations for FY2025. The FY2023 enacted amount for the Indian Health Service is higher than the FY2024 levels in large part because FY2023 was the first year for which advance appropriations (for FY2024) were provided. Accordingly, the FY2023 enacted amount reflects the entirety of funding for one fiscal year—FY2023—as well as partial funding for FY2024 (i.e., the advance funding). By contrast, the FY2024 request and House and Senate committee-reported levels in this report do not reflect the entirety of funding for one fiscal year.¹⁵

With regard to rescissions, the total Interior bill appropriations in this report reflect rescissions of prior year appropriations. For example, the FY2024 House-passed total (\$28.84 billion) reflects

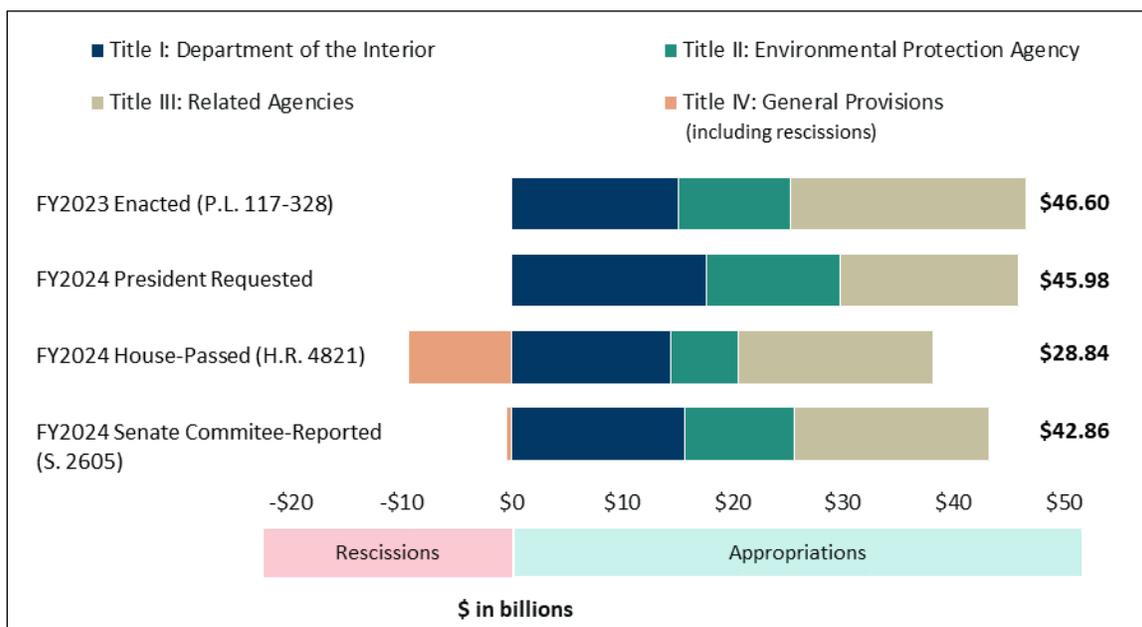
¹³ S.Rept. 118-83, p. 218.

¹⁴ Ibid, p. 218.

¹⁵ This is the case because the House-passed and Senate committee-reported levels in this report reflect new appropriations for FY2024 but not the advance appropriations for FY2024 that were included in the FY2023 appropriation law. Also, the House-passed and Senate committee-reported levels in this report reflect advance appropriations for FY2025. Congress also may wish to provide new appropriations for FY2025 as part of the regular, annual Interior appropriations law for FY2025.

rescissions (and another reduction) in Title IV of H.R. 4821 in the amount of \$9.39 billion.¹⁶ These rescissions and reduction are treated as an offset to new appropriations of \$38.23 billion in the bill, resulting in a total appropriation of \$28.84 billion. A comparison of new appropriations only would reduce the difference between the FY2024 House-passed and the FY2023 enacted, FY2024 requested, and FY2024 Senate committee-reported totals.¹⁷

Figure I. Appropriations for Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, by Major Title, FY2023-FY2024



Source: Prepared by CRS with data from the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

Notes: In general, amounts reflected in the figure represent regular annual appropriations for the pertinent fiscal year (FY2023 or FY2024), rescissions of prior year appropriations, and advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service (in Title III). Also, the House-passed total of \$28.84 billion reflects new appropriations of \$38.23 billion and \$9.39 billion in rescissions/reductions. The Senate committee-reported total of \$42.86 billion reflects new appropriations of \$43.31 billion and rescissions of \$450.0 million.

Overview of Agencies in the Bill

The annual Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill includes funding and other provisions for agencies and programs in three federal departments and for numerous related agencies. The Interior bill typically contains three primary appropriations titles and a fourth title with general provisions.¹⁸ Title I provides funding for most agencies in the Department of the

¹⁶ H.Rept. 118-155, p. 259 shows \$9.37 billion in rescissions. In addition, Title IV of the House-passed bill included another reduction, for a total of \$9.39 billion.

¹⁷ Rescissions also are reflected in the FY2023 enacted and FY2024 Senate committee-reported totals in this report. Specifically, the FY2023 enacted amount reflects rescissions totaling \$42.7 million, consisting of \$13.3 million for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and \$29.4 million for the Indian Health Service. The FY2024 Senate committee-reported amount reflects rescissions totaling \$466.0 million in S. 2605, as follows: \$14.5 million in Title I for the National Park Service, \$1.5 million in Title II for EPA, \$100.0 million in Title IV for the National Park Service, and \$350.0 million in Title IV for the Indian Health Service.

¹⁸ On occasion, the House, Senate, or enacted version of the Interior bill has contained additional titles. For instance, S. (continued...)

Interior (DOI),¹⁹ many of which manage land and other natural resource or regulatory programs. Title I also typically includes general provisions related to DOI agencies. Title II contains appropriations and administrative provisions for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Title III, Related Agencies, generally funds about two dozen other entities, including the Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture; the Indian Health Service in the Department of Health and Human Services; arts and cultural agencies, including the Smithsonian Institution; and various other organizations and entities. Title III also contains administrative provisions for some agencies funded therein. Title IV, General Provisions, typically contains additional guidance and direction for agencies in the bill. The following sections briefly describe selected major agencies in the Interior bill.

Title I. Department of the Interior²⁰

DOI's mission is to conserve and manage the nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provide scientific and other information about those resources; and exercise trust responsibilities and other commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities.²¹ There are nine major DOI agencies and two other broad accounts funded in the Interior bill that carry out this mission. Hereinafter, these 11 entities are referred to collectively as the *DOI agencies*. The DOI agencies and their functions funded in the FY2023 Interior bill included the following:

- The *Bureau of Land Management* administers about 245 million acres of federal public land, mostly in the West, for diverse uses such as energy and mineral development, livestock grazing, recreation, and preservation. The agency also administers roughly 713 million acres of federal onshore subsurface mineral estate throughout the nation and supervises the mineral operations on Indian trust lands.²²
- The *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service* administers 89 million acres of federal land within the National Wildlife Refuge System and other areas,²³ including 77 million acres in Alaska. It also manages several large marine refuges and marine national monuments, sometimes jointly with other federal agencies. In addition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, together with the National Marine Fisheries Service (Department of Commerce), is responsible for implementing the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. §§1531 et seq.); promoting wildlife habitat; enforcing federal wildlife laws; supporting wildlife and ecosystem science; conserving migratory birds; administering grants to aid state fish and wildlife

4686, the FY2023 Interior appropriations bill introduced in the Senate, contained a Title V, with emergency appropriations for disaster recovery and emergency response of several agencies.

¹⁹ The exceptions are the Bureau of Reclamation and the Central Utah Project, which receive appropriations through Energy and Water Development appropriations laws. For information on appropriations for these entities, see CRS Report R47553, *Energy and Water Development: FY2024 Appropriations*, by Mark Holt and Anna E. Normand, and CRS In Focus IF12369, *Bureau of Reclamation: FY2024 Budget and Appropriations*, by Charles V. Stern.

²⁰ For additional background on the Department of the Interior (DOI) and its agencies, see CRS Report R45480, *U.S. Department of the Interior: An Overview*, by Mark K. DeSantis.

²¹ DOI, "About Interior," at <https://www.doi.gov/about>.

²² For an overview of FY2024 appropriations for the Bureau of Land Management, CRS In Focus IF12499, *Bureau of Land Management: FY2024 Appropriations*, by Carol Hardy Vincent.

²³ This is the acreage over which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has primary jurisdiction in the United States and the territories. The figure excludes acreage in marine national monuments over which the agency also has jurisdiction.

- programs; and coordinating with state, international, and other federal agencies on fish and wildlife issues.²⁴
- The *National Park Service* administers more than 80 million acres of federal land within the National Park System, including 428 separate units in the 50 states, District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. Roughly two-thirds of the system's lands are in Alaska. The National Park Service has a dual mission—to preserve unique resources and to provide for their enjoyment by the public. The agency also supports and promotes some resource conservation activities outside the National Park System through grant and technical assistance programs and cooperation with partners.²⁵
 - The *U.S. Geological Survey* is a science agency that provides physical and biological information related to geological resources; natural hazards; climate and land use change; and energy, mineral, water, and biological sciences and resources. In addition, it is the federal government's principal civilian mapping agency (e.g., topographical and geological mapping) and a primary source of data on the quantity and quality of the nation's water resources (e.g., streamgaging).²⁶
 - The *Bureau of Ocean Energy Management* manages development of the nation's offshore conventional and renewable energy resources in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Alaska region. These resources are in areas covering approximately 2.5 billion acres located beyond state waters. This acreage is off all coastal states, although much of it (more than 1 billion acres) is in the Alaska region.²⁷
 - The *Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement* provides regulatory and safety oversight for resource development on the outer continental shelf. Among the bureau's responsibilities are oil and gas permitting, facility inspections, environmental compliance, and oil spill response planning.²⁸
 - The *Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement* works with states and tribes to reclaim abandoned coal mining sites. The agency also regulates active coal mining sites to minimize environmental impacts during mining and to reclaim affected lands and waters after mining.²⁹
 - The *Bureau of Indian Affairs* provides and funds various services to American Indians and Alaska Natives. The agency is responsible for programs that include

²⁴ For an overview of FY2024 appropriations for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, see CRS In Focus IF12540, *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: FY2024 Appropriations*, by Caitlin Keating-Bitonti and Carol Hardy Vincent.

²⁵ For a discussion of the different types of national park units and an overview of their management, see CRS Report R41816, *National Park System: What Do the Different Park Titles Signify?*, by Laura B. Comay. For an overview of FY2024 appropriations for the National Park Service, see CRS In Focus IF12436, *National Park Service: FY2024 Appropriations*, by Laura B. Comay. For an overview of National Park Service appropriations in recent years, see CRS Report R42757, *National Park Service (NPS) Appropriations: Ten-Year Trends*, by Laura B. Comay.

²⁶ For an overview of FY2024 appropriations for the U.S. Geological Survey, see CRS In Focus IF12358, *The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS): Background and FY2024 Appropriations*, by Anna E. Normand.

²⁷ For a discussion of state and federal waters, see CRS Report RL33404, *Offshore Oil and Gas Development: Legal Framework*, by Adam Vann. For an overview of FY2024 appropriations for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, see CRS In Focus IF12542, *Offshore Energy Agency Appropriations, FY2024*, by Laura B. Comay.

²⁸ For an overview of FY2024 appropriations for the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, see CRS In Focus IF12542, *Offshore Energy Agency Appropriations, FY2024*, by Laura B. Comay.

²⁹ For additional information on the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, see CRS In Focus IF11352, *The Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund: Issues and Legislation in the 117th Congress*, by Lance N. Larson, and CRS Report R46610, *Reclamation of Coal Mining Operations: Select Issues and Legislation*, by Lance N. Larson.

government operations, courts, law enforcement, fire protection, social programs, roads, economic development, employment assistance, housing repair, irrigation, dams, Indian rights protection, implementation of land and water settlements, and management of trust assets (real estate and natural resources).³⁰

- The *Bureau of Indian Education* funds and provides education to Indian tribes and Alaska Natives. The agency funds an elementary and secondary school system, institutions of higher education, and other educational programs.³¹
- *Departmental Offices* covers diverse offices and programs. In the FY2023 appropriations law, it covered the Office of the Secretary of the Interior, Insular Affairs, the Office of the Solicitor, and the Office of Inspector General.³²
- *Department-Wide Programs* covers varied programs and entities. In the FY2023 appropriations law, it covered DOI Wildland Fire Management,³³ the Central Hazardous Materials Fund, the Energy Community Revitalization Program, the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Fund, the Working Capital Fund, and the Office of Natural Resources Revenue.³⁴

Title II. Environmental Protection Agency

EPA administers various environmental statutes that have an express or general objective to protect human health and the environment.³⁵ Primary responsibilities include the implementation

³⁰ For an overview of FY2023 budget formulation and appropriations for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and related issues and options for Congress, see CRS Report R47723, *Bureau of Indian Affairs: Overview of Budget Issues and Options for Congress*, by Mariel J. Murray. Both the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Education received FY2023 appropriations under the heading *Indian Affairs* in the FY2023 Interior appropriations law. Under that heading, the FY2023 appropriations law also contained appropriations for the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians. For FY2024, the President's request and the House-passed bill (H.R. 4821) instead sought funding for the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration in anticipation of the termination of the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians. For additional information, see DOI, *Budget Justifications and Performance Information, Fiscal Year 2024, Bureau of Trust Funds Administration*, at <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/fy2024-btfa-greenbook.pdf-508.pdf>.

³¹ For a discussion of Indian education programs, see CRS Report RL34205, *Indian Elementary-Secondary Education: Programs, Background, and Issues*, by Cassandra Dortch, and CRS In Focus IF10554, *Postsecondary Education of Native Americans*, by Cassandra Dortch.

³² An overview of these entities' responsibilities is at DOI, "Bureaus & Offices," at <https://www.doi.gov/bureaus/offices>.

³³ For an overview of FY2024 appropriations for wildland fire management, see CRS In Focus IF12398, *Funding for Wildfire Management: FY2024 Appropriations for Forest Service and Department of the Interior*, by Anne A. Riddle. For an overview of wildland fire management appropriations in recent years, see CRS Report R46583, *Federal Wildfire Management: Ten-Year Funding Trends and Issues (FY2011-FY2020)*, by Anne A. Riddle.

³⁴ Descriptions of these programs are on the DOI website as follows. For DOI wildland fire management, see <https://www.doi.gov/wildlandfire>. For the Central Hazardous Materials Fund, see <https://www.doi.gov/oepc/central-hazardous-materials-fund-chf>. For the Energy Community Revitalization Program and the Working Capital Fund, see DOI, *Budget Justifications and Performance Information, Fiscal Year 2024, Office of the Secretary, Departmentwide Programs*, at <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/fy2024-os-dwp-greenbook-508.pdf>. For the Natural Resource Damage Assessment Fund, see DOI, *Budget Justifications and Performance Information, Fiscal Year 2024, Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program*, at <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/fy2024-nrdar-greenbook.pdf-508.pdf>. For the Office of Natural Resources Revenue, see <https://www.onrr.gov/>. For FY2024, the President's request also sought funding through this account for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program, though the FY2023 appropriations law included PILT funding under a general provision. For information on this program, see CRS Report R46260, *The Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program: An Overview*, by Carol Hardy Vincent and DOI, *Budget Justifications and Performance Information, Fiscal Year 2024, Office of the Secretary, Departmentwide Programs*, at <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/fy2024-os-dwp-greenbook-508.pdf>.

³⁵ EPA has no organic statute establishing an overall mission.

of federal statutes regulating air quality, water quality, drinking water safety, pesticides, toxic substances, management and disposal of solid and hazardous wastes, and cleanup of environmental contamination. EPA awards grants to assist states and local governments in implementing federal law and complying with federal requirements to control pollution. The agency also administers programs that provide financial assistance for public wastewater and drinking water infrastructure projects.³⁶

Title III. Related Agencies

In FY2023, Title III of the Interior bill funded about two dozen agencies, organizations, and other entities collectively referred to as the *related agencies*. Among the related agencies funded in the Interior bill, roughly 95% of the funding typically is provided to the following:

- The *Forest Service* in the Department of Agriculture manages 193 million acres of federal land within the National Forest System—consisting of national forests, national grasslands, and other areas—in 43 states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. It also provides technical and financial assistance to states, tribes, and private forest landowners and conducts research on sustaining forest resources for future generations.³⁷
- The *Indian Health Service* in the Department of Health and Human Services provides medical and environmental health services for approximately 2.8 million American Indians and Alaska Natives. Health care is provided through a system of more than 600 hospitals, clinics, and health stations on or near Indian reservations. The agency, tribes and tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations operate these facilities and programs.³⁸
- The *Smithsonian Institution* is a museum, education, and research complex consisting of 21 museums, the National Zoological Park (*National Zoo*), and several research facilities throughout the United States and around the world.³⁹ Established by federal legislation in 1846 with the acceptance of a trust donation by the institution’s namesake benefactor, the Smithsonian is funded by both federal appropriations and a private trust.⁴⁰
- The *National Endowment for the Arts* and the *National Endowment for the Humanities* make up the *National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities*. The National Endowment for the Arts is a major federal source of support for all arts disciplines. Since 1965, it has awarded more than 145,000 grants, which

³⁶ For an overview of FY2024 appropriations for EPA, see CRS In Focus IF12383, *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Appropriations: FY2024 President’s Budget Request*, by Angela C. Jones.

³⁷ For an overview of Forest Service land management, see CRS Report R43872, *National Forest System Management: Overview and Issues for Congress*, by Katie Hoover and Anne A. Riddle. For an overview of FY2024 appropriations for the Forest Service, see CRS In Focus IF12396, *Forest Service: FY2024 Appropriations*, by Anne A. Riddle. For an overview of Forest Service appropriations in recent years, see CRS Report R46557, *Forest Service Appropriations: Ten-Year Data and Trends (FY2011-FY2020)*, by Katie Hoover.

³⁸ Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service, *Justification of Estimates for Appropriations Committees, Fiscal Year 2024*, p. CJ-2, at https://www.ihs.gov/sites/budgetformulation/themes/responsive2017/display_objects/documents/FY2024-IHS-CJ32223.pdf. For additional information on the agency, see CRS Report R43330, *The Indian Health Service (IHS): An Overview*, by Elayne J. Heisler.

³⁹ These statistics are from the Smithsonian Institution’s website at <http://www.si.edu/About>.

⁴⁰ For an overview of the Smithsonian Institution, including potential costs of new museums and other issues for Congress, see CRS Report R44370, *Smithsonian Institution: Background, Issues for Congress, and Selected Legislation*, by R. Eric Petersen.

have been distributed to all states. The National Endowment for the Humanities generally supports grants for humanities education, research, preservation, and public humanities programs; creation of regional humanities centers; and development of humanities programs under the jurisdiction of state humanities councils. Since 1965, it has awarded more than 64,000 grants. It also supports a Challenge Grant program to stimulate and match private donations in support of humanities institutions.⁴¹

**Table I. Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies:
FY2023-FY2024 Appropriations**

(in thousands of dollars)

Bureau or Agency	FY2023 Enacted	FY2024 Admin. Requested	FY2024 H. Passed (H.R. 4821)	FY2024 S. Comm. Reported (S. 2605)
Bureau of Land Management	\$1,493,999	\$1,621,526	\$1,238,645	\$1,498,649
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$1,773,292	\$2,092,233	\$1,539,509	\$1,803,844
National Park Service	\$3,475,254	\$3,764,499	\$3,043,000	\$3,456,965
U.S. Geological Survey	\$1,497,178	\$1,785,509	\$1,359,960	\$1,515,452
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	\$182,960	\$212,210	\$126,000	\$163,960
Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement	\$171,985	\$198,607	\$159,099	\$162,985
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement	\$289,930	\$301,856	\$278,923	\$289,930
Indian Affairs ^a	\$3,953,727	\$4,642,087	\$4,087,632	\$4,030,444
<i>Bureau of Indian Affairs</i>	\$2,441,016	\$2,922,388	\$2,583,952	\$2,519,217
<i>Bureau of Indian Education</i>	\$1,401,439	\$1,610,601	\$1,399,504	\$1,407,051
<i>Bureau of Trust Funds Administration</i>	\$0	\$109,098	\$104,176	\$0
<i>Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians</i>	\$111,272	\$0	\$0	\$104,176
Departmental Offices	\$432,754	\$476,935	\$294,042	\$425,048
<i>Office of the Secretary</i>	\$135,884	\$158,808	\$17,277	\$142,278
<i>Insular Affairs</i>	\$128,820	\$122,259	\$121,820	\$117,820
<i>Office of the Solicitor</i>	\$101,050	\$111,898	\$90,945	\$97,950
<i>Office of Inspector General</i>	\$67,000	\$83,970	\$64,000	\$67,000
Department-Wide Programs	\$1,314,019	\$2,052,690 ^b	\$1,723,391	\$1,776,519
<i>Wildland Fire Management</i>	\$1,003,786	\$1,675,886	\$1,454,443	\$1,466,286
<i>Central Hazardous Materials Fund</i>	\$10,064	\$10,116	\$9,000	\$10,064
<i>Energy Community Revitalization Program</i>	\$5,000	\$30,000	\$5,000	\$5,000

⁴¹ For an overview of FY2023 appropriations for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities, see CRS Report R47248, *National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities: FY2023 Appropriations*, by Shannon S. Loane. An overview of the National Endowment for the Arts is at <https://www.arts.gov/about/what-is-the-nea>. An overview of the National Endowment for the Humanities is at <https://www.neh.gov/about>.

Bureau or Agency	FY2023 Enacted	FY2024 Admin. Requested	FY2024 H. Passed (H.R. 4821)	FY2024 S. Comm. Reported (S. 2605)
Natural Resource Damage Assessment Fund	\$8,037	\$8,388	\$7,750	\$8,037
Working Capital Fund	\$112,198	\$142,897	\$89,758	\$112,198
Office of Natural Resources Revenue	\$174,934	\$185,403	\$157,440	\$174,934
General Provisions	\$515,000	\$536,000	\$515,000	\$516,000
Payments in Lieu of Taxes ^b	\$515,000	\$535,000	\$515,000	\$515,000
Other ^c	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
Subtotal, Title I: Department of the Interior	\$15,100,098	\$17,684,152	\$14,365,201	\$15,639,796
Subtotal, Title II: Environmental Protection Agency	\$10,135,433	\$12,083,273	\$6,155,410	\$9,922,318
Dept. of Agriculture Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment	\$1,000	\$1,411	\$1,000	\$1,000
Forest Service	\$7,073,844	\$9,730,827	\$8,035,097	\$8,341,065
Indian Health Service ^d	\$12,058,293	\$4,149,542	\$7,826,988	\$7,275,531
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences	\$83,035	\$83,035	\$75,000	\$83,035
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry	\$85,020	\$86,020	\$76,000	\$85,020
Council on Environmental Quality and Office of Environmental Quality	\$4,676	\$4,825	\$1,000	\$5,176
Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board	\$14,400	\$17,400	\$12,960	\$14,400
Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation ^e	\$0	\$5,024	\$0	\$0
Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development	\$13,482	\$13,982	\$13,000	\$13,482
Smithsonian Institution	\$1,144,500	\$1,241,000	\$959,715	\$1,094,500
National Gallery of Art	\$209,240	\$221,000	\$178,000	\$209,240
John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts	\$45,380	\$48,030	\$30,000	\$45,380
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars	\$15,000	\$16,100	\$12,000	\$15,000
National Endowment for the Arts	\$207,000	\$211,000	\$186,300	\$207,000
National Endowment for the Humanities	\$207,000	\$211,000	\$186,300	\$207,000
Commission of Fine Arts	\$3,661	\$4,284	\$3,464	\$3,661
National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$4,750	\$5,000
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	\$8,585	\$9,494	\$8,285	\$8,585
National Capital Planning Commission	\$8,750	\$9,490	\$8,500	\$8,750
U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum	\$65,231	\$67,000	\$74,000	\$65,231
Presidio Trust	\$90,000	\$45,000	\$0	\$45,000

Bureau or Agency	FY2023 Enacted	FY2024 Admin. Requested	FY2024 H. Passed (H.R. 4821)	FY2024 S. Comm. Reported (S. 2605)
World War I Centennial Commission	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$1,500	\$0
U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission	\$15,000	\$30,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children	\$550	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal, Title III: Related Agencies	\$21,359,647	\$16,213,464	\$17,708,859	\$17,748,056
Subtotal, Title IV: General Provisions^f	\$0	\$0	-\$9,387,000	-\$450,000
Total Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies	\$46,595,178	\$45,980,889	\$28,842,470	\$42,860,170

Source: Prepared by CRS with data from the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

Notes: Enacted appropriations for FY2023 were contained in P.L. 117-328, Division G. House-passed appropriations were included in H.R. 4821, passed by the House on November 3, 2023. Senate committee-reported appropriations were included in S. 2605, reported by the Senate Committee on Appropriations on July 27, 2023, together with S.Rept. 118-83.

In general, amounts reflected in this table represent regular annual appropriations for the pertinent fiscal year (FY2023 or FY2024), rescissions of prior year appropriations, and advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service (in Title III). Amounts generally exclude emergency supplemental appropriations (e.g., \$6.15 billion in FY2023 for disaster relief in Division N, Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023, of P.L. 117-328, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023); emergency and advance appropriations (other than certain advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service); and mandatory appropriations under authorizing statutes, such as under P.L. 116-152, the Great American Outdoors Act, which provided mandatory appropriations for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and deferred maintenance of federal land management agencies.

- a. This row shows total funding for the listed entities. For FY2024, the request and the House-passed bill seek to fund the functions of the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians through a new Bureau of Trust Funds Administration.
- b. The FY2024 request for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes Program (\$535.0 million) was included under Department-Wide Programs. For easier comparison, these appropriations are shown in this table under General Provisions.
- c. S.Rept. 118-83, p. 204, identifies \$1.0 million in the FY2024 request and in S. 2605 for offshore decommissioning work.
- d. Amounts in this row reflect advance appropriations as follows. The FY2023 enacted total includes \$5.13 billion in advance appropriations for FY2024 that were contained in P.L. 117-328, Division G. The FY2024 request did not include advance appropriations for FY2025. The FY2024 House-passed total includes \$5.88 billion in advance appropriations for FY2025. The FY2024 Senate committee-reported total includes \$5.23 billion in advance appropriations for FY2025.
- e. The FY2024 request reflects new funding (of \$5.0 million). The FY2023 enacted and FY2024 House-passed amounts reflect \$3.1 million from unobligated balances of funding. The FY2024 Senate committee-reported amount reflects \$5.0 million from unobligated balances of funding.
- f. The FY2024 House-passed figure reflects rescissions and another reduction under several sections of Title IV of H.R. 4821, pertaining to a greenhouse gas reduction fund, environmental and climate justice grants, the Council on Environmental Quality, the National Park Service, and outer continental shelf receipts. The FY2024 Senate committee-reported figure reflects rescission under two sections of Title IV of the bill, pertaining to the National Park Service and the Indian Health Service.

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