



No. 12

January 21, 2003

H.J.Res. 2 – Omnibus Appropriations Bill, FY 2003: Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations

Calendar No. 1

H.J. Res. 2 was passed by the House on January 8, 2003, and is now pending on the Senate floor. This bill is serving as the vehicle for all 11 of the yet-unsigned FY03 appropriations bills.

NOTEWORTHY

Note: The funding bills are before the Senate with no written reports. All information contained in this Notice comes from the Appropriations Committee as conveyed to us on or before 1/17/03.

- The bill language for the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies funding bill was offered as a part of a substitute (along with the other 10 yet-to-be-signed FY03 funding bills) to H.J.Res. 2. The bill is subject to amendments.
- On September 4, 2002, the Senate began consideration of the FY 2003 Interior funding bill (S. 2708/H.R. 5093). The bill did not undergo final passage but was stalled due to a dispute over language designed to expedite hazardous fuels reduction projects (See RPC's Record Vote Analyses 212, 217, 220, 221 and 224 from the 107th Congress).
- The 11 remaining FY03 appropriations bills (only Defense and Military Construction were signed) come before the Senate with smaller funding levels than were in the bills as reported by the Appropriations Committee last year. This is to comport the total FY03 federal discretionary spending level to \$750.5 billion, the level agreed to by President Bush and Congressional appropriators last year. (The amount remaining after subtracting the Defense and Mil Con bills amounts to \$385.9 billion.)
- The omnibus bill contains \$18.97 billion for Interior and Related Agencies, an amount which is \$194 million less than the FY02 appropriations and \$49 million more than the Administration's request. A separate portion of the omnibus bill includes \$825 million in supplemental funds to repay amounts borrowed in FY02 for fire suppression. [See chart on p. 7.]

HIGHLIGHTS

The bill language contained in the Stevens substitute (Senate Amendment #1, which was accepted by unanimous consent on January 15, 2003) provides funding for all of the agencies and bureaus of the Department of the Interior (except the Bureau of Reclamation), as well as for the following other agencies: Forest Service (an agency of the USDA); a number of programs under the Department of Energy, including the Strategic Petroleum Reserve account; Indian Health Service (under the Department of Health and Human Services); and a variety of cultural programs and agencies, including the Smithsonian Institution, National Gallery of Art, and the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities.

- The Committee provides \$9.43 billion for **Department of the Interior programs (Title I)** and provides \$9.5 billion for the **related agencies funded in this bill (Title II)**.
- The bill continues the **automatic renewal of grazing permits and leases** that expire or are transferred until the permit renewal process is completed, including grazing permits for Forest Service lands.
- **The House in the 107th Congress** passed its FY03 Interior & Related Agencies funding bill, H.R. 5093, on July 17, 2002, by a vote of 377-46. That bill provided \$19.8 billion in FY03 funds, plus \$700 million in contingent emergency FY02 funds for fire suppression.
- The following are highlights of agency funding levels compared to the Administration's request: **the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)** at \$36 million more than requested; **National Park Service** at \$70 million less than requested; **Bureau of Indian Affairs** at \$21 million more than requested; **Forest Service** at the same as the request; **U.S. Geological Survey** at \$48 million more than requested; **Indian Health Service** at \$6 million more than requested; the **Department of Energy's programs** provided for in this bill at \$61 million more than requested; and the **Fish and Wildlife Service** is funded at \$70 million less than the amount requested.
- Within the funding for the BLM, the bill recommends \$210 million for **Payments in Lieu of Taxes**, which is \$45 million more than the Administration request of \$165 million.
- The Committee provides \$1.4 billion for **wildland fire management** for the Forest Service, and provides \$654 million for wildland fire management under the BLM.
- Secs. 107 through 110 of Division F of the bill prohibit the use of appropriated funds to conduct **lease sales and related activities** for certain areas offshore California, Florida and the Eastern Seaboard.

**BILL
PROVISIONS**

**Title I: Department of
the Interior**

The Committee provides \$9.43 billion for the Interior Department in FY03, \$20 million less than the Administration's request and \$60 million less than the amount appropriated for FY02.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM): The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1.86 billion for BLM, an increase of \$36 million over the Administration's request, but \$12 million less than Congress appropriated for FY02. The Administration requested \$44.7 million for land acquisition, but the bill provides \$30 million, which is \$14.7 million below the FY03 request and \$19.9 million below the FY02 appropriation. The Committee also provides \$654 million for Wildland Fire Management, and \$210 million for Payments in Lieu of Taxes.

Fish and Wildlife Service: The Committee provides a total of \$1.21 billion for the Service, which is \$70 million below the request and \$63 million below the FY02 enacted amount. Of the total, \$902.7 million is for the operational accounts of the Service, \$1 million less than the Administration's request and \$52 million more than the appropriation for FY02. The Committee provides \$42.9 million for construction, which is \$7.5 million more than the Administration's request and \$12.6 million less than the amount appropriated for FY02. In addition, the bill provides \$81.6 million for land acquisition, which is \$11.1 million more than the budget request.

National Park Service: The Committee provides \$2.29 billion for the National Park Service for FY03, \$70 million less than the Administration's request and \$94 million less than the appropriation for FY02. The Committee provides \$1.57 billion for operation of the National Park System, \$13.5 million below the Administration's request and \$84 million less than the FY02 appropriation. This includes \$78.4 million for the Park Police, \$63 million for recreation and preservation, \$322.8 million for construction, and \$204 million for land acquisition and state.

U.S. Geological Survey: The Committee recommends a total appropriation of \$914.7 million, \$47 million more than the Administration's request and \$600,000 more than FY02, for surveys, investigations, and research.

Minerals Management Service (MMS): The Committee recommends \$170 million (including \$6.1 million for oil spill research) for the MMS, the same as the Administration's request, and \$13.6 million above the amount enacted for FY02 for Royalty and Offshore Minerals Management.

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement: The Committee allows \$297 million, \$17.7 million more than the Administration's request and \$9.4 million less than the FY02 appropriation. This includes \$191.7 million for the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund.

Native American Programs

Bureau of Indian Affairs: The bill provides \$2.27 billion, which is \$22 million more than the Administration's request, and \$44 million more than the amount appropriated for FY02. The bill recommends \$1.9 billion for operation of Indian programs and \$296 million for Indian education construction.

Indian Health Service (in Title II): The bill provides \$2.82 billion for the Indian Health Service, which is under the Department of Health and Human Services. The amount is \$6 million more than the budget request, and \$62 million more than the FY02 appropriation. The bill provides \$365.4 million for Indian Health Facilities.

Other Native American Programs (in Title II): The bill provides \$14.5 million for the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation and \$5.1 million for payment to the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development.

Title II: Related Agencies

For Title II, Related Agencies, the bill provides \$9.54 billion, \$128 million less than the FY02 appropriation and \$69 million more than the budget request.

U.S. Forest Service (Department of Agriculture): For the Forest Service, the bill provides \$3.95 billion. The appropriation includes \$421 million for wildland fire suppression and \$228 million for hazardous fuels reduction work. For specific programs, the Committee recommendation includes:

- For the **National Forest System**, the bill recommends \$1.35 billion, which is \$13.5 million less than the budget estimate and \$21 million more than the FY02 appropriation.
- For **Land Acquisition**, the bill provides \$148.3 million, \$1.4 million less than the FY02 appropriation and \$17.8 million more than the budget estimate.
- For **Capital Improvement and Maintenance** (which includes facilities, roads, and trails), the Committee provides \$543.7 million, a decrease of \$2.5 million from the FY02 appropriation, and \$ 8.4 million less than requested.

- The bill provides \$247.8 million for **Forest and Rangeland Research**, \$ 6.5 million more than FY02 and \$ 5 million more than the budget request.
- The Committee provides \$297.5 million for **State and Private Forestry**, \$20.1 million more than the budget request and \$6.3 million more than the FY02 appropriation.
- The Committee provides \$421 million for wildland fire suppression and \$228 million for hazardous fuels reduction work. A separate division of the omnibus bill provides \$636 million in supplemental funds to repay the amount borrowed from other accounts to pay for wildland fire suppression.

Department of Energy

For the Department of Energy programs funded under the appropriation bill, the Committee provides \$1.76 billion, \$2 million less than the FY02 amount and \$61 million more than the budget request.

Fossil Energy R&D: The Committee provides \$626 million for fossil energy research and development, which is \$151 million more than the budget request and \$43 million more than the FY02 appropriation.

Energy Conservation: The bill provides \$884 million for energy conservation, \$29 million less than the FY02 appropriation and \$17 million less than the budget request.

Strategic Petroleum Reserve: The bill recommends \$172.9 million for operation of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, \$4 million more than the budget request and \$6.1 million less than the FY02 appropriation.

Cultural Programs

National Endowment for the Arts: The bill recommends an appropriation of \$116 million for grants and administration of the National Endowment for the Arts, \$18 million above the FY02 appropriation, and \$17 million less than the budget request.

National Endowment for the Humanities: The bill recommends an appropriation of \$126 million, \$1 million above the FY02 appropriation and equal to the request.

Smithsonian Institution: The bill recommends \$531 million for the Smithsonian, \$3 million more than the budget request, and \$12 million more than FY02.

Title III: General Provisions

The bill includes provisions that are described beginning on page 529 of the bill text. They include the Mining Patent Moratorium (Sec. 308), renewal of grazing permits on federal lands (Sec. 326), and specific directions regarding management and spending. Sec. 322 would not allow funds to be used to conduct energy mineral leasing activities with the boundaries of National Monuments except where allowed by the Presidential proclamation creating the monument.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION

The Office of Management and Budget issued a Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) on January 17, 2003. The SAP did not address the Interior and Related Agencies portion of the omnibus appropriations bill.

POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS

No amendments known of
at press time.

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Department of the Interior & Related Agencies Appropriations, FY03

(Dollars in thousands;
selected items only)

Item	FY 2002 Level	Budget Estimate	House Allowance	Senate Committee
Title I, Department of the Interior				
Bureau of Land Management	\$1,872,597	\$1,825,422	\$2,108,742	\$1,860,000
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$1,276,424	\$1,283,364	\$1,397,891	\$1,213,000
National Park Service	\$2,380,074	\$2,355,561	\$2,395,139	\$2,290,000
United States Geological Survey	\$914,002	\$867,338	\$928,405	\$914,700
Minerals Management Service	\$156,772	\$170,327	\$170,826	\$170,000
Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement	\$306,530	\$279,402	\$290,402	\$297,000
Bureau of Indian Affairs	\$2,222,876	\$2,245,804	\$2,270,758	\$2,270,000
Departmental Offices	\$367,144	\$423,535	\$392,302	\$423,814
Total, Title I, Department of the Interior	\$9,496,419	\$9,450,753	\$9,954,175	\$9,430,000
Title II, Related Agencies				
Forest Service (USDA)	\$4,130,416	\$3,948,711	\$4,645,250	\$3,950,000
Department of Energy	\$1,766,470	\$1,717,241	\$1,892,643	\$1,760,000
Indian Health Service	\$2,759,101	\$2,816,406	\$2,900,621	\$2,820,000
Smithsonian Institution	\$518,860	\$527,960	\$527,960	\$531,000
National Gallery of Art	\$85,335	\$94,449	\$94,449	\$93,000
National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities	\$266,637	\$242,243	\$257,543	\$242,000

Grand Total, Fiscal Year 2002	\$19,167,770	\$18,938,916	\$20,414,125 *	\$18,970,000
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* Source for House figures: House Appropriations Committee/Congressional Research Service; note that the grand total figure includes \$700 million in FY 2002 funds for fire suppression.