



Appropriations Update

Committee on the Budget • Majority Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
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FISCAL YEAR 2006 INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL – H.R. 2361

SUMMARY

The Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill reported to the House on 13 May, 2005 (H.R. 2361; H.Rept. 109-80) provides new budget authority [BA] equaling the 302(b) suballocation to the Appropriations subcommittee of the same name. The bill is consistent with the appropriate levels in the conference agreement on the fiscal year 2006 budget resolution (H.

Con. Res. 95), and hence complies with the applicable provisions of the Congressional Budget Act. It also complies with provisions of the budget resolution such as those governing advance appropriations and emergency designations. This is the second appropriations bill for the fiscal year beginning 1 October 2005, and the second under the restructured Appropriations subcommittee alignment.

COST OF THE LEGISLATION

The bill provides \$26.107 billion in new budget authority, and \$27.496 billion in outlays for 2006 – a decrease of \$653 million, or 2.2 percent, in BA, and an increase of \$708 million in outlays from fiscal year 2005. Although budget authority is below prior-year levels – largely due to one-time spending, discussed below – it is \$432 million above the President's request.

As noted, BA provided by the bill is equal to the 302(b) suballocation to the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies; outlays are \$4 million below the suballocation (see Table 1 below). Savings are achieved by a change in a mandatory spending program, and by a rescission of previously-enacted discretionary appropriations – also discussed in more detail below.

Table 1: Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill
(fiscal years; millions of dollars)

| | 2005 Spending ^a | Administration 2006 | 302 (b) for 2006 | Bill |
|------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------|
| Budget Authority | 26,760 | 25,675 | 26,107 | 26,107 |
| Outlays | 26,788 | 27,469 | 27,500 | 27,496 |

^a Excludes emergency-designated appropriations.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE BUDGET RESOLUTION

As noted above, because the bill is consistent with the appropriate levels in the budget resolution, it complies with provisions of the Congressional Budget Act. It contains no

advance appropriations or emergency-designated spending, the use of which are governed by the budget resolution – and hence also complies with the budget resolution.

Table 2: Discretionary Spending in the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill
(in millions of dollars)

| | 2005 Budget Authority | 2005 Outlays | 2006 Budget Authority | 2006 Outlays | Difference BA | Difference Outlays |
|---|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Department of Interior | 9,801 | 9,446 | 9,757 | 10,031 | -44 | 585 |
| <i>Bureau of Land Management</i> | 1,797 | 1,675 | 1,733 | 1,779 | -64 | 104 |
| <i>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</i> | 1,292 | 1,261 | 1,305 | 1,292 | 13 | 31 |
| <i>National Park Service</i> | 2,317 | 2,376 | 2,228 | 2,443 | -89 | 67 |
| <i>Bureau of Indian Affairs</i> | 2,296 | 2,100 | 2,319 | 2,335 | 23 | 235 |
| <i>Other, Department of Interior</i> | 2,099 | 2,034 | 2,172 | 2,182 | 73 | 148 |
| Environmental Protection Agency | 8,023 | 8,435 | 7,707 | 8,695 | -316 | 260 |
| Forest Service (USDA) | 4,672 | 4,700 | 4,246 | 4,363 | -426 | -337 |
| Health and Human Services | 3,139 | 3,071 | 3,259 | 3,263 | 120 | 192 |
| Other | 1,125 | 1,136 | 1,138 | 1,144 | 13 | 8 |
| Total | 26,760 | 26,788 | 26,107 | 27,496 | -653 | 708 |

DISCUSSION

The bill provides \$9.8 billion in discretionary BA to the Department of the Interior, which is essentially the 2005 enacted level (see Table 2 above). Within the department, BA is reduced from the 2005 level by 3 percent for the Bureau of Land Management (\$64 million), and the National Park Service (\$89 million); and it is increased by 1 percent for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (\$13 million), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (\$13 million). Noteworthy changes include a \$69-million decrease in the wildland fire management account for the Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Land Management. (This account, and the USDA Forest Service wildland fire management accounts, were boosted in 2005 by a total of \$500 million through a one-time allowance contained in the budget resolution. Those appropriations are still available.) Also, land acquisition accounts for Interior agencies, as well as USDA’s Forest Service, are \$100 million less than fiscal year 2005.

The bill provides \$7.7 billion to the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA], a reduction from the \$8 billion enacted in 2005. EPA’s Clean Water State Revolving Fund received an appropriation of \$850 million compared to \$1.1 billion last year, and accounts for much of this reduction.

Along with the reductions in the USDA’s Forest Service wildland fire management account, and land acquisition accounts, the capital improvement and maintenance account was reduced by \$97 million (18 percent) relative to fiscal

year 2005. This account had been increasing at more than 7 percent per year since 2000.

The bill provides for a 4-percent increase (\$119 million) in funding for the Indian Health Service, which accounts for 95 percent of the spending for the Department of Health and Human Services included in this bill.

OFFSETS

The bill assumes none of the administration-proposed user fees for EPA’s pesticide programs. Nevertheless, it does include, as offsets, a change in a mandatory spending program, and a rescission.

Changes in Mandatory Programs. The bill reduces a mandatory National Park Service contract authority account by \$30 million in budget authority, thereby changing a mandatory spending program – one not subject to annual appropriations – to offset discretionary spending. If this provision were stricken (because it constitutes legislating on an appropriations bill), the measure as reported would exceed its allocation under section 302(b) of the Congressional Budget Act.

Rescissions. The bill rescinds \$100 million in multi-year and no-year funding for grants, contracts, and interagency agreements from various EPA accounts. Outlays flowing from this rescission total only \$5 million.

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