

FY18 Omnibus Appropriations Summary

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Department of the Interior & US Forest Service

Bill-Wide Report Language

Youth Partnership Programs ([PDF Page 3](#))

(Omnibus Report) The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture are encouraged to utilize, where practicable, youth partnership programs like the Public Lands Corps, Youth Conservation Corps, Student Conservation Association, Job Corps and other related partnerships with Federal, State, local, tribal or non-profit groups that serve young adults.

Educational & Outreach Programs

(House Report) The Committee strongly supports academic internships, partnerships, and educational and outreach programs of the agencies funded through the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill and encourages them to ensure that their efforts reach the widest possible audience, including but not limited to, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and Tribal Colleges and Universities, as appropriate.

DOI Reorganization & Reprogramming

(Omnibus Report) The Committees are aware that agencies funded by this Act are currently working to implement Executive Order 13 781, a Comprehensive Plan for Reorganizing the Executive Branch, and have included in the fiscal year 2019 budget request a number of significant reorganization proposals for the Committees' consideration. The Committees are also aware of reports that agencies funded by this Act may be weighing additional organizational changes during the remainder of this fiscal year. Agencies are reminded that this agreement continues longstanding General Guidelines for Reprogramming that require agencies funded by this Act to submit reorganization proposals for Committee review prior to their implementation. It is noted that such reprogramming guidelines apply to proposed reorganizations, workforce restructure, reshaping or transfer of functions presented in the budget justifications, or bureau wide downsizing, especially those of significant national or regional importance, and include closures, consolidations, and relocations of offices, facilities, and laboratories presented in the budget justifications. In addition, no agency shall implement any part of a reorganization that modifies regional or State boundaries for agencies or bureaus that were in effect as of the date of enactment of this Act unless approved consistent with the General Guidelines for Reprogramming procedures specified herein.

Department of the Interior

FY18 Omnibus: \$13,115,260,000 (\$863.3m over FY17 & \$2.5b over FY18 PBR)

DOI Report Language & Authorizations

Office of the Secretary

- Conservation Partnerships ([PDF Page 45](#))

- (Omnibus Report) The Committees continue to support the partnership between the Department and the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps and Public Lands Corps which engage youth and veterans in protecting, restoring, and enhancing America's great outdoors.
- National Park Fees
 - (Omnibus Report) The Secretary is directed to provide the committees within 60 days of enactment a report analyzing the Administration's October 24, 2017 proposal to raise national park entry Ad fees. Such report must include a cost benefit analysis and evaluation of the impact on accessibility to the parks.

National Park Service

FY18 Omnibus: \$810,019,000 (\$31.4m over FY17 & \$124.1m over FY18 PBR)

NPS Report Language & Authorizations

- Cyclic Maintenance & Repair/Rehabilitation
 - (Omnibus Report) The agreement retains funding increases provided within the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 to address deferred maintenance needs and provides an additional \$15,000,000 to address cyclic maintenance needs, an additional \$10,000,000 for repair and rehabilitation projects, and an additional \$10,000,000 for project planning.
- Operation of the National Park System
 - (House Report) The Committee opposes reductions as proposed in the budget request that would diminish visitor services and reduce park and program operations system-wide. Such actions would have an immediate impact on day-to-day operations and would result in limiting the use of or closing certain areas, such as campgrounds and facilities, and reducing or eliminating hours of operations and visitor services to the public, at national parks. Proposed reductions to both the seasonal and permanent workforce would also have an immediate impact on park operations. Such proposals do not serve the public well particularly at this time of record National Park Service visitation.
- Directors Order 21
 - (Omnibus Report) Within 90 days of enactment of this Act, the Service shall report to the Committees on steps it has taken or plans to take in fiscal year 2018 to implement Public Law 113-291.
- Construction
 - (Omnibus Report) A general program increase of \$138,000,000 above the request is provided to address only longstanding deferred maintenance and major construction related requirements of the Service.
- Centennial Challenge
 - (Omnibus Report) The Committees expect these funds to be used by the Service to address projects which have a deferred maintenance component in order to alleviate the sizeable deferred maintenance backlog within the national park system. A one-to-one matching requirement is required for projects to qualify for

these funds. The Service is urged to give preference to projects that demonstrate additional leveraging capacity from its partners.

NPS Funding Levels

- Facility Operations & Maintenance (ONPS)
 - FY18 Omnibus: \$810,019,000 – Available until September 30, 2019
 - \$31.4m over FY17 & \$124.1m over FY18 PBR
 - Note: This account funds cyclic maintenance and repair/rehabilitation. Within that is \$134,461,000 for maintenance, repair, or rehabilitation projects. Specifically this includes an increase of \$15,000,000 to address cyclic maintenance needs, an additional \$10,000,000 for repair and rehabilitation projects, and an additional \$10,000,000 for project planning.
- Visitor Services (ONPS)
 - FY18 Omnibus: \$255,683,000 – Available until September 30, 2019
 - \$3.5m over FY17 & \$31.9m over FY18 PBR
 - Note: This account funds the Youth Partnerships Program and Volunteer Programs
- Centennial Challenge
 - FY18 Omnibus: \$23,000,000 – Available until expended
 - \$3m over FY17 & \$8m over FY18 PBR
 - Note: The Committees expect these funds to be used by the NPS to address projects which have a deferred maintenance component in order to alleviate the sizeable deferred maintenance backlog within the national park system.
- National Recreation And Preservation Natural Programs
 - FY18 Omnibus: \$14,170,000
 - \$598k over FY17 & \$2.1m over FY18 PBR
 - Note: This account funds the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program
- National Recreation And Preservation Cultural Programs
 - FY18 Omnibus: \$25,062,000
 - \$500k over FY17 & \$2.7m over FY18 PBR
 - Note: This account funds the Historic Preservation Training Center and National Center for Preservation Technology and Training
- Resource Stewardship (ONPS)
 - FY18 Omnibus: \$334,437,000 – Available until September 30, 2019
 - \$5.5m over FY17 & \$32.5m over FY18 PBR
 - Note: This account funds the Cultural Resources Diversity Internship Program and the Natural Resource Stewardship program including National Historic Trials, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and invasive species management
- Construction
 - FY18 Omnibus: \$359,704,000 – Available until expended
 - \$150.3m over FY17 & \$133.2m over FY18 PBR

- Note: This includes a \$138m general increase for backlog maintenance projects to address only longstanding deferred maintenance and major construction related requirements of the Service.
- Land & Water Conservation Fund State Assistance
 - FY18 Omnibus: \$124,006,000
 - \$14m over FY17 & \$121m over FY18 PBR
 - Note: This includes a \$6m increase for formula funds and \$8m in competitive grants.

Bureau of Land Management

FY18 Omnibus: \$1,331,944,000 (\$79.5m over FY17 & \$258.4m over FY18 PBR)

BLM Report Language & Authorizations

- Deferred Maintenance
 - (Omnibus Report) The agreement includes an additional \$50,000,000 for deferred maintenance. The Committees direct that the Bureau provide a report no later than October 1, 2018, on the projects to be funded with this funding. To augment the new funds for deferred maintenance, the Bureau is directed to utilize these Construction funds for deferred maintenance projects and to submit a reprogramming request to the Committees, as necessary, to fully obligate the prior year balances in fiscal year 2018.
- Greater Sage Grouse
 - The agreement provides \$60,000,000 for greater sage-grouse and related sage-steppe conservation activities. This is equal to the amount of base funding provided in fiscal year 2017. The Bureau is encouraged to continue working with States and other interested entities on the existing sage-grouse conservation plans and to improve the condition of the sage-steppe ecosystem.
- Permanent Federal Lands Transaction Act Reauthorization
 - Originally enacted in 2000 (P.L. 106-248), FLTFA is a western Federal lands program that facilitates strategic Federal land sales by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in order to provide funding for high-priority land conservation within or adjacent to Federal lands in the eleven contiguous western states and Alaska, as well as funds costs associated with strategic BLM land sales. In addition, FLTFA provides funding for BLM, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), National Park Service (NPS), and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) land conservation projects that increase public access for outdoor recreation, hunting, fishing; conserve wildlife habitat; protect water quality; and preserve historic and cultural resources. FLTFA expired in 2011.

BLM Funding Levels

- Management of Land & Resources
 - FY18 Omnibus: \$1,183,043,000 – available until expended



- \$87.7m over FY17 & \$219.9m over FY18 PBR
- Note: This account funds nearly all BLM activities and important accounts below:
- Land Resources
 - FY18 Omnibus: \$248,196,000
 - \$2.5 less than FY17 & \$36m over FY18 PBR
 - Note: The decrease comes from the Wild Horse & Burro's program while there is an increase for Sage Grouse activities
- National Landscape Conservation System
 - FY18 Omnibus: \$36,819,000
 - Same as FY17 & \$9.1m over FY18 PBR
 - Note: This account funds National Conservation Lands
- Resource Management Planning
 - FY18 Omnibus: \$60,125,000
 - \$8m over FY17 & \$21.7m over FY18 PBR
 - Note: This account supports research and monitoring to guide BLM land use decisions
- Transportation & Facilities Maintenance
 - FY18 Omnibus: \$118,326,000
 - \$50m over FY17 & \$55.5m over FY18 PBR
 - Note: This includes the increase of \$50m for deferred maintenance

Fish and Wildlife Service

FY18 Omnibus: \$1,594,646,000 (\$74.9m over FY17 & \$292m over FY18 PBR)

FWS Report Language & Authorizations

- Visitor Services
 - (Omnibus Report) The agreement includes \$2,000,000 for the youth program. Funding has been provided to continue the Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership program at the fiscal year 2017 enacted level and to support efforts to promote conservation in urban areas.
- Refuge Maintenance
 - (Omnibus Report) The agreement includes \$42,901,000 to reduce the backlog of deferred maintenance and \$649,000 to continue the Youth Conservation Corps.
- Maintenance & Equipment
 - (Omnibus Report) The agreement provides \$22,920,000 which includes \$13,249,000 to reduce the deferred maintenance backlog, and, in addition to amounts provided in the Construction account, funding should continue to be allocated to facilities with the most severe health and safety deficiencies across the System as a whole, rather than by region.
- Construction

- (Omnibus Report) The bill provides \$66,540,000 for Construction and includes a one-time increase of \$50,000,000 for the backlog of deferred maintenance principally at national fish hatcheries and national wildlife refuges. The Service is directed to provide a spend plan to the Committees within 120 days of enactment of this Act for the additional deferred maintenance funding.

FWS Funding Levels

- National Wildlife Refuge System
 - FY18 Omnibus: \$486,757,000 – Available until September 30, 2019
 - \$2.8m over FY17 & \$16.7m over FY18 PBR
 - Note: This account funds Visitor Services, which houses the Youth Program and Urban Refuge Partnerships Program, and was proposed to be eliminated in the President’s Budget, but instead received \$2m, an increase of \$4,000 over FY17
- Construction
 - FY18 Omnibus: \$66,540,000 – Available until expended
 - \$47.9m over FY17 & \$50.7m over FY18 PBR
 - Note: This includes a \$50m influx of funding for “deferred maintenance”

DOI-Wide Wildland Fire Management

Report Language & Authorizations

- That notwithstanding requirements of the Competition in Contracting Act, the Secretary, for purposes of fuels management activities, may obtain maximum practicable competition among: (1) local private, nonprofit, or cooperative entities; (2) Youth Conservation Corps crews, Public Lands Corps (Public Law 109–154), or related partnerships with State, local, or nonprofit youth groups

Funding Level

- FY18 Omnibus: \$948,087,000
 - \$5.4m over FY17 & \$74.6m over FY18 PBR
 - Note: This includes a \$4m increase for Fuels Management

US Forest Service

FY18 Omnibus: \$5,934,664,000 (\$338.3m over FY17 & \$1.2b over FY18 PBR)

USFS Report Language & Authorizations

Wildfire Suppression Funding and Forest Management Activities Act

(Omnibus) Establishes a fund of more than \$2 billion a year, which would increase over a 10-year period to \$2.9 billion, and expires in FY2027. The fund could be tapped when the cost of wildfires exceeds the 10-year average cost of wildfires, which would be set at the 2015 level.

Categorical exclusions from the National Environmental Policy Act for hazardous fuels reduction on areas up to 3,000 acres is also included. The agreement takes effect in FY2020, so FY2019 would still be subject to sweeps.

Secure Rural Schools Act Reauthorization

(Omnibus) The SRS program provides assistance to rural counties and school districts affected by the decline in revenue from timber harvests on federal lands. Historically, rural communities and schools have relied on a share of receipts from timber harvests to supplement local funding for education services and roads. In FY 2015, SRS provided \$278 million to over 700 rural counties, parishes and boroughs across the nation. SRS expired at the end of FY 2015. This reauthorization funds SRS at 95% of the FY15 level.

Challenges of the National Forest

(House Report) The national forests are facing some of the greatest challenges in their history. These include invasive species, regional drought and watershed degradation, fuel buildups and severe wildland fires, habitat fragmentation, and devastating outbreaks of insects and disease. Today there are more than 100 million dead and dying trees, the result of a severe four-year drought and insect and disease infestation, in California. Many of these acres are at risk for catastrophic wildland fire. As such, the Service is directed to aggressively work to improve the health of the national forests in California and around the Nation, using all available authorities and strategies. The Service also is directed to increase its collaboration with States and partners to address the forest health crisis before it worsens, putting lives and property at risk of catastrophic wildland fire.

Forest Service Accounting, Budget & Management

(House Report) The Committee appreciates the Service's efforts to improve its accounting, budgeting, and management systems and practices but believes additional steps are necessary to ensure the Service is fully accountable and transparent with taxpayer dollars. The Committee requests that the Secretary of Agriculture fully engage on these issues and designate a senior staff member with budgeting and management expertise to assist the Service on these matters.

The Committee has learned the Service has outdated, unofficial policy and guidance documents directing the administrative control of funds; that in some cases control practices have been developed in an ad hoc manner; and that the practices vary across regions, forests, and districts. This is contrary to current law (31 U.S.C. 1514) and Office of Management and Budget requirements (OMB Circular No. A-11). Without internal controls, accountability and transparency are impossible to achieve. The Committee includes bill language to require the Service to develop an administration control of funds system, as required by 31 U.S.C. 1514). The Committee expects the system will apply consistently across the Service.

The Committee would like to assist the Service in its efforts to improve its accounting and budgeting processes. As such, the Committee requests a report by December 31, 2017, on the feasibility of restructuring the Service's budget request. The Committee envisions a request that allocates funding for the Service's major programs between salaries and expenses and project funds. This would allow for the elimination of cost pools, which the Committee believes

complicate the Service's accounting and budgeting processes, and increase confidence that funds are used for the purposes Congress intended.

(Omnibus Report) Over the past three fiscal years, the Committees have become increasingly concerned about the Service's lack of internal controls over budgetary resources, reimbursable agreements, and unliquidated obligations. The lack of controls indicates a weak financial system, which increases the possibility of inefficient and ineffective use, if not outright waste, fraud, and abuse, of taxpayer funds. After conducting an 18-month audit, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) recently made 11 recommendations in a report titled "Forest Service: Improvements Needed in Internal Control over Budget Execution Process" (GAO-18-56). While the Service is expected to implement the recommended changes as soon as practicable, Congress also recognizes the challenges of developing, updating, and implementing these important fiscal controls. As such, the Committees request that the Service work with the Committees to remedy any hindrances to their implementation.

The Committees continue to support the Service's efforts in centralizing and standardizing budgeting and accounting practices among the Regions and program offices and look forward to reviewing the Service's plan for updating its budget process and presentation.

Hazardous Fuels

(House Report) The Committee also recommends prioritizing funding for proactive hazardous fuels management and fire mitigation in high-priority areas to protect life and property.

(Omnibus Report) The Committees direct the Service to prioritize hazardous fuel removal projects that are critical to protecting public safety in high hazard areas in the national forests facing significant tree mortality and to increase cross-boundary collaboration with landowners near National Forest System lands and encourage the use of hazardous fuels funding for this purpose.

(Omnibus Report) \$15,000,000 may be used by the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into procurement contracts or cooperative agreements or to issue grants for hazardous fuels management activities, and for training or monitoring associated with such hazardous fuels management activities on Federal land, or on non-Federal land if the Secretary determines such activities benefit resources on Federal land.

National Fire Plan Development

(Omnibus Report) Despite more than \$5,000,000,000 in investments in hazardous fuels mitigation since the development of the National Fire Plan following the 2000 fire season, the Service has not been able to keep pace with the challenges caused by previous management decisions, a changing climate, ever-increasing costs, and an expanding wildland-urban interface, all of which exacerbate the risk of catastrophic wildfire. The Committees direct the Service to work with the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of the Interior, as well as other relevant agencies, to review and update the National Fire Plan, as needed.

Wildland Fire Management – Regional Restoration

(Omnibus Report) The agreement provides an additional \$200,000 for partnerships that enhance the Service's capacity to execute science-based forest restoration treatments to reduce the risk of wildfires and improve the health of dry forest ecosystems.

Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery

(Omnibus Report) The Committees recognize the devastating effects of Hurricane Maria on Puerto Rico's natural resources, especially El Yunque National Forest, the International Institute of Tropical Forestry, and private forests, and strongly encourage the Service to utilize its expertise, working with private partners and the Government of Puerto Rico, to restore and rehabilitate the island's unique forest ecosystems.

Recreation Areas

(Omnibus Report) Within the funds provided for recreation... and \$500,000 is made available to support infrastructure and trails development and to build the capacity of local user groups and partnership organizations for all National Recreation Areas administered by the Service that were established after 1997.

Comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan

(Omnibus Report) The Service is directed to establish a long-term, multi-year plan to guide needed investments in buildings, facilities, transportation systems, and other infrastructure by December 30, 2018. The plan should: 1) establish a process for setting and ranking construction and maintenance priorities; 2) reflect the Service's mission, goals, and requirements; 3) identify facilities, roads, and other infrastructure that should be disposed of or decommissioned; 4) consider existing investments in planning, construction, and maintenance, as well as deferred maintenance needs; and 5) identify future needs for investment to improve the physical infrastructure and health of the national forests. The plan also should include estimated funding requirements.

USFS Funding Levels

National Forest System

- FY18 Omnibus: \$1,923,750,000 – Funds available through September 30, 2021
 - \$410.4m over FY17 & \$176.3m over FY18 PBR
 - Note: This account funds numerous accounts of importance below. This large increase is mostly due to the transfer of \$430m in Hazardous Fuels Management from the Wildland Fire Account – taking that into account, the FY18 amount is \$1,493,750,000 which is a \$19.6m decrease over FY17.
- Recreation Heritage & Wilderness
 - FY18 Omnibus: \$257,848,000
 - \$6.7m less than FY17 & \$5m over FY18 PBR
- Vegetation & Watershed Management
 - FY18 Omnibus: \$180,000,000
 - \$4.7m less than FY17 & \$5.6m over FY18 PBR
- Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management
 - FY18 Omnibus: \$136,430,000

- \$4m less than FY17 & \$11.4m over FY18 PBR

Capital Improvement & Maintenance – Trails

- FY18 Omnibus: \$80,000,000 - Funds available through September 30, 2021
 - \$2.5m over FY17 & \$67.3m over FY18 PBR
 - Note: This includes \$79m extra for Facilities, \$42m extra for Roads, and \$2m extra for Trails, and a \$40m reduction with the elimination of the Legacy Road and Trail program. The PBR proposed this elimination because the agency can accomplish this work within the existing program.

Wildland Fire Suppression

- FY18 Omnibus: \$1,556,818,000
 - \$308.8m over FY17 & \$500m over FY18 PBR
 - Note: This represents a \$500m increase in suppression funding

Youth Conservation Corps

- FY18 Omnibus: \$5 million

Corporation for National & Community Service

FY18 Omnibus: \$1,063,958,000 (\$33.6m over FY17 & \$929m over the FY18 PBR)

CNCS Report Language

Reduced Full Time Service Positions

The agreement includes a provision to allow CNCS to establish a new 1,200 hour service position, including a proportional reduction in the education award.

CNCS Funding Levels

AmeriCorps State & National

- FY18 Omnibus: \$412,010,000
 - \$26m over FY17 & \$409.7m over FY18 PBR
 - Note: This was proposed for elimination in the FY18 PBR

AmeriCorps VISTA

- FY18 Omnibus: \$92,364,000
 - Same as FY17 & \$87.4m over FY18 PBR

AmeriCorps NCCC

- FY18 Omnibus: \$32,000,000
 - \$2m over FY17 & \$7.9m over FY18 PBR

State Service Commissions

- FY18 Omnibus: \$17,538,000
 - \$1m over FY17 & \$17.5m over FY18 PBR

Department of Labor

DOL Report Language

Job Corps

The Department has taken steps over the past several years to close selected Job Corps centers based on performance metrics and other factors. The Department is urged to utilize any savings realized by such center closures within the year to enhance instruction, technology, course offerings, and safety at other centers, and conduct additional activities that improve program quality for participants. The Department should also support and incentivize center operators to build and enhance partnerships between centers and other training sites to enhance opportunity and work experiences for students in underserved rural or remote communities as well as in urban settings. Such partnerships should use student-focused industry-backed curricula, prepare students for employment in high-demand fields, offer students the opportunity to take coursework leading to college credit, and demonstrate strong employer partnerships within the region in which the center is located.

DOL Funding Levels

US Forest Service Jobs Corps (and DOL Job Corps)

- FY18 Omnibus: \$1,718,655,000
 - \$14.5m over FY17 & \$270.2m over FY18 PBR

YouthBuild

- FY18 Omnibus: \$89,534,000
 - \$5m over FY17 & \$5.2m over FY18 PBR

WIOA Youth

- FY18 Omnibus: \$903,416,000
 - \$30m over FY17 & \$379.8m over FY18 PBR

WIOA Adult

- FY18 Omnibus: \$845,556,000
 - \$30m over FY17 & \$355.2m over FY18 PBR

Apprenticeship Programs

- FY18 Omnibus: \$145,000,000
 - \$50m over FY17 & \$55.2m over FY18 PBR