DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Interior’s budget for FY 2015 proposes $11.9 billion, a 2.4% increase from the FY14 enacted level. This total assumes a fire suppression emergency cap exemption proposal of $240.4 million to ensure sufficient funding to meet urgent fire needs and make prudent investments for proactive and responsive solutions to wildland fire challenges. In addition, an estimated $6.8 billion in permanent funding will become available in 2015. The Budget proposes full permanent funding for Land and Water Conservation Fund programs, significantly higher funding for national parks to prepare for the centennial of the National Park Service, and an authorized one-year extension of the Payments in Lieu of Taxes program.

Bureau of Land Management

The Budget requests $1.1 billion in total budget authority for BLM, a decrease of $5.6 million below the enacted FY14 level.

Oregon and California Grant Lands

$104 million is requested for the management of these lands, which represents an $11 million reduction from enacted FY14 levels.

Forest Ecosystems Health and Recovery

Funds in this account are derived from revenue generated from the Federal share of receipts from the sale of salvage timber from the Oregon and California grant lands, public domain lands, and Coos Bay Wagon Road lands. This account was established to allow BLM to more efficiently and effectively address forest health issues, and will expire on September 30, 2015.

Bureau of Reclamation

The budget provides $1 billion in funding for Reclamation; these expenditures are offset by current receipts from the Central Valley Project Restoration Fund, estimated to be $57 million. The budget proposes the establishment of a new Indian Water Rights Settlement account and a current appropriation within the San Joaquin Restoration Fund. The Water and Related Resources account under the BOR supports the development, management, and restoration of water and related natural resources in the 17 Western States, and is funded at $760.7 million.
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**CALFED**

The Budget request for CALFED funding for FY15 is $37 million, equal to FY14 funding. This account funds activities that are consistent with the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, a collaborative effort involving State and Federal agencies and representatives of California's urban, agricultural, and environmental communities. The goals of the program are to improve fish and wildlife habitat, water supply reliability, water quality, and levee integrity in the San Francisco Bay-San Joaquin River Delta, the principal hub of California's water distribution system. The budget will support the following activities based on the Interim Federal Action Plan: $1.7 million for a Renewed Federal State Partnership, $8 million for Smarter Water Supply and Use, and $27.4 million for Habitat Restoration.

**Central Valley Project Restoration Fund**

According to the Budget documents, the budget of $57 million is expected to be offset by discretionary receipts totaling $57 million. The budget was developed by BOR after considering the effects of the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act (P.L. 111-11, March 30, 2009) which includes a redirection of nearly $2 million in permanent annual appropriations from the CVPRF to the San Joaquin Restoration Fund.

**San Joaquin Restoration Fund**

This fund was established to implement the provisions described in the Settlement (Settlement) for the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) et al. v. Rodgers lawsuit. The Settlement's two primary goals are: 1) To restore and maintain fish populations in "good condition" in the main stem of the San Joaquin River below Friant Dam to the confluence of the Merced River, including naturally reproducing and self-sustaining populations of salmon and other fish; and 2) To reduce or avoid adverse water supply impacts to all of the Friant Division long-term contractors that may result from the Interim Flows and Restoration Flows provided for in the Settlement. The Budget proposes $32 million of current funds for the San Joaquin River Restoration Fund account in 2015.

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

The Budget proposes $2.8 billion (including current appropriations of $1.5 billion) in FY15 funding, an increase of $48.8 million from FY14 levels. The budget includes $1.3 billion available under permanent appropriations, most of which will be provided directly to States for fish and wildlife restoration and conservation.

**National Park Service**

The FY15 request is for $3.647 billion, compared to the FY14 budget authority of $2.983 billion.
The budget includes $40 million for the Centennial Initiative, which will prepare for the Centennial of the National Park Service in 2016.

**Wildland Fire Management**

The Budget proposes $794 million in total appropriations for the Wildland Fire Management account, compared to the $741 million provided in FY14. Funding is used for fire preparedness, suppression operations, fire science and research, emergency rehabilitation, hazardous fuels reduction, and rural fire assistance.

**Land and Water Conservation Fund**

The 2015 budget proposes $900 million in current and permanent funding in 2015 and proposes to permanently authorize $900 million in annual permanent funding for the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture Land and Water Conservation Fund programs beginning in 2016. In 2015, the budget proposes a transition year in which $900 million in total LWCF funding is requested, composed of $550 million in permanent and $350 million in current funding, shared by both Interior and Agriculture.

**Payments in Lieu of Taxes**

The proposed one-year extension of PILT is estimated to be $442 million for 2015.