

Legislative Proposals



The 2022 budget request includes the following legislative proposals and technical adjustments.

American Jobs Plan—The President’s American Jobs Plan calls for significant investments to create jobs, bolster the Nation’s infrastructure, and help make America more competitive in a changing world. The plan invests in much-needed brick-and-mortar infrastructure, climate response and resilience, clean energy infrastructure, and Tribal nations and underserved communities. Working with other Federal agencies, Interior will contribute to the following governmentwide initiatives.

Civilian Climate Corps—The American Jobs Plan includes \$10.0 billion to mobilize the next generation of conservation and resilience workers through the Civilian Climate Corps, or CCC. The CCC will put a new, diverse generation of Americans to work conserving our public lands and waters, bolstering community resilience, and advancing environmental justice—all while placing good-paying union jobs within reach for more Americans.

Plugging Orphan Oil and Gas Wells and Cleaning Up Abandoned Mines—Hundreds of thousands of former orphan oil and gas wells and abandoned mines pose serious safety hazards and cause ongoing air, water, and other environmental damage. Many of those old wells and mines are in rural communities that have suffered from years of disinvestment. The American Jobs Plan includes an immediate up-front investment of \$16.0 billion that will put hundreds of thousands of Americans to work in union jobs, plugging oil and gas wells and restoring and reclaiming abandoned coal, hard-rock, and uranium mines. In addition to creating good jobs in hard-hit communities, this investment will reduce the methane and brine that leak from the wells, just as we invest in reducing leaks from other sources, such as aging pipes and distribution systems.

Investing in Climate Resilience—President Biden’s American Jobs Plan includes \$50.0 billion to protect and, where necessary, restore nature-based infrastructure—our lands, forests, wetlands, watersheds, and coastal and ocean resources. Families and businesses throughout the United States rely on this infrastructure for their lives and livelihoods. President Biden is calling on Congress to invest in protection from extreme wildfires, coastal resilience to sea-level rise and hurricanes, support for agricultural resources management and climate-smart technologies, and the protection and restoration of major land and water resources, such as Florida’s Everglades and the Great Lakes.

Some examples of how Interior would contribute include the following:

- Investments focused on the western drought crisis in the Bureau of Reclamation’s (Reclamation) water efficiency and recycling, Tribal water settlements, and dam safety programs.
- Expanded digital, high-resolution elevation collection mapping within the U.S. Geological Survey’s 3D Elevation program (3DEP). The 3DEP program works collaboratively with State and private partners to improve elevation maps of the United States. Improved elevation maps are essential for hazard planning, including informing flood and mudslide

risk. This improved mapping will support climate resilience as communities plan for infrastructure improvements that will be resilient in the face of a changing climate.

- Additional investments in Federal and Tribal hazardous fuels management. Fire is essential in shaping healthy forests and rangelands, yet increasingly severe wildfire is transforming our public lands at an unprecedented rate, with extreme, negative consequences for community safety and public health, carbon storage, and biodiversity. Additional investments could be used to prioritize reducing risks to life and property in the wildland-urban interface, improving watershed health, and maintaining sensitive ecosystems for long-term carbon sequestration.

Advancing Research and Development and the Technologies of the Future—Public investments in research and development (R&D) lay the foundation for the future breakthroughs that over time yield new businesses, new jobs, and more exports. More investment is needed to maintain our economic edge in today’s global economy. The United States is one of the few major economies whose public investments in R&D have declined as a percentage of GDP in the past 25 years, whereas other countries are investing aggressively in R&D. For America to win the 21st-century economy, President Biden believes we must get back to investing in the researchers, laboratories, and universities across our Nation—but this time, it must be done with a commitment to lift up workers and regions left out of past investments. The American Jobs Plan calls for \$180.0 billion to advance U.S. leadership in critical technologies, upgrade America’s research infrastructure, and establish the United States as a leader in climate science, innovation, and R&D.

Indian Water Rights Settlements—To fully meet Federal commitments for existing enacted Indian water rights settlements, the Department of the Interior proposes to reclassify amounts necessary to meet Federal commitments for existing enacted Indian water rights settlements from discretionary to mandatory funding starting in 2023. The proposal would address requirements needed to

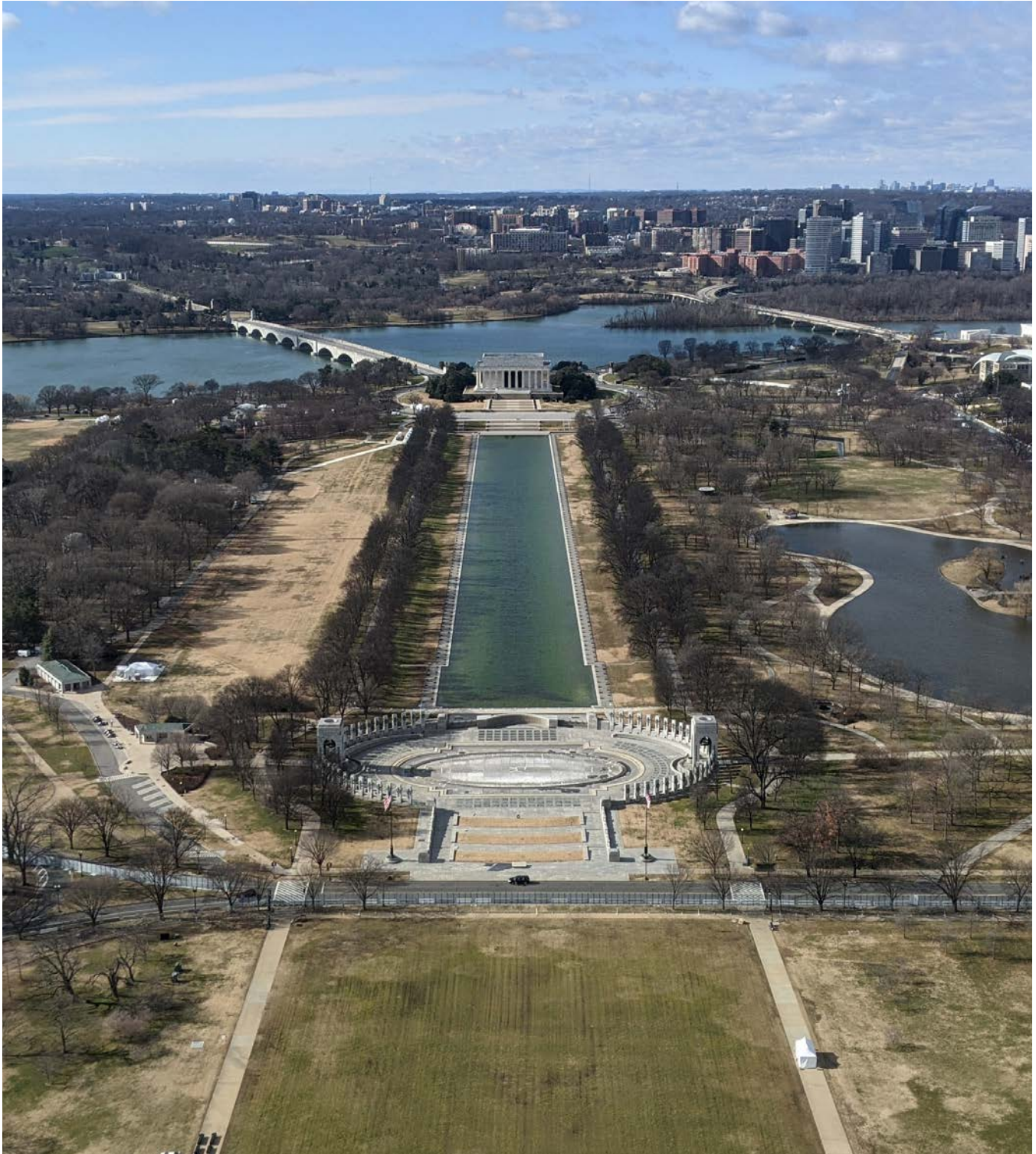
meet existing settlements managed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Reclamation. The proposal reclassifies funding as mandatory in the Reclamation Water and Related Resources Account and in the BIA Indian Land and Water Claim Settlements and Miscellaneous Payments to Indians account, with authority to transfer funds as needed to Reclamation to establish a comprehensive funding source for enacted settlements that are not fully funded with other sources. Funding would be separate and distinct from settlements funding available through the Reclamation Fund. The budget continues to include current discretionary funding for Indian water rights settlements for 2022. The reclassification to mandatory funding would occur in 2023 and thereafter meet the gap between existing sources of funding for water rights settlements and the estimated need.

Payments for Tribal Leases—Section 105(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act provides that Tribes and Tribal organizations carrying out Federal functions under a self-determination contract or self-governance compact may enter into a lease agreement with the Department of the Interior for the tribally owned or rented facility used to carry out those functions. The 2022 budget proposes to reclassify Payments for Tribal Leases funding from discretionary to mandatory beginning in 2023. Specifically, the budget proposes that beginning in 2023, the Indian Affairs Payments for Tribal Leases account will continue to be funded through the appropriations process but will be reclassified as mandatory funding for the purposes of scoring. This account will continue as an indefinite appropriation to ensure the availability of full funding to meet Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act Section 105(l) lease requirements for the fiscal year. The budget continues to request discretionary funding for this account in 2022.

Tribal Contract Support Costs—Contract Support Costs funding enables Tribes to assume responsibility for operating Federal programs by covering the costs to administer the programs. The budget proposes to reclassify Contract Support Costs from discretionary to mandatory funding beginning in 2023. Specifically, the budget

proposes that beginning in 2023, the Indian Affairs Contract Support Costs account will continue to be funded through the appropriations process but will be reclassified as mandatory funding for the purposes of scoring. This account will continue

as an indefinite appropriation to ensure the availability of full funding to meet Contract Support Costs requirements for the fiscal year. The budget continues to request discretionary funding for this account in 2022.



Aerial view of National Mall and Memorial Parks, Washington, DC.