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# Department of the Interior Wildland Fire Management

Western States Federal Agency Support Team (WestFAST)  
Webinar – July 13, 2022



INTERIOR / **WILDLAND FIRE**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR / OFFICE OF WILDLAND FIRE

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# Agenda

- Background on Wildland Fire Management Program
- Budget Overview
- Infrastructure Law and Wildland Fire Management
- Priorities for 2022 through 2026
- Partnerships



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# Interagency Wildland Fire Management



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# National Cohesive Strategy



## Vision

*Safely and effectively extinguish fire when needed; use fire where allowable; manage our natural resources; and, as a nation, live with fire.*



## Goals

Restore and  
Maintain  
Landscapes

Fire-adapted  
Communities

Safe and  
Effective  
Wildfire  
Response



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# Integrated Approach to Wildland Fire Management

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

## Integrated Approach

Preparedness  
Fuels Management  
Fire Science  
**BEFORE**



Burned Area Rehabilitation  
Fire Science  
**AFTER**

**DURING**

Suppression Operations  
Emergency Stabilization  
Fire Science







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# Preparedness

- Prepare to respond timely and effectively to wildfires.
- Maintain an integrated and coordinated framework.
- Fund core firefighting resources.
- Hire, train, and support firefighters.
- Manage the capacity of assets and operations to respond to fire activities.



*All-women Conservation Corps firefighting crew at Yosemite National Park in California. (Photo by NPS)*



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## Suppression Operations

- Collaboratively manage wildfires.
- “All hands, all lands” approach
- Every wildfire has a management response.
- Control movement and growth of wildfires that result in losses of values.
- Conduct emergency stabilization after wildfire.



*A wildland firefighter works on the Doagy Fire in New Mexico in 2021. (Photo by BLM)*



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# Fuels Management

- Manage vegetation to reduce fire impacts, protect values at risk, and improve climate resilience.
- Practices include prescribed fires and mechanical, chemical, and biological treatments.
- Support the application of Tribal ecological knowledge.



*A Northern Pueblos Tribal fuels crew member conducts a prescribed burn on Tesuque Reserved Treaty Rights Lands adjacent to the Santa Fe National Forest. (Photo by BIA)*



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# Burned Area Rehabilitation

- Repair or improve burned landscapes that are unlikely to recover without human assistance.
- Work on non-emergency rehabilitation actions that may take up to *five* years to complete.
- Prevent further degradation of watersheds and landscapes affected by wildfire.



*FWS personnel replant native species on a site burned during the 2017 Thomas Fire. (Photo by FWS)*





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# Facilities Construction and Maintenance

- Fund safe, functional, and energy-efficient facilities that are essential to achieving the Wildland Fire Management program's mission.
- Maintain a 5-year Deferred Maintenance and Capital Improvement plan.



*FWS renovated an aircraft hangar in Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge in Georgia and Florida. (Photo by FWS)*





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# Joint Fire Science Program

- Fund dedicated research and science to inform policies and decisions at local, regional, and national levels.
- Current priority areas of research include:
  - Firefighters' mental health
  - Smoke emissions
  - Carbon storage and cycling
  - Resilience to climate change
  - Effects of fire on different populations



*A duff (shed vegetation on forest floor) workshop offered by Southern Fire Exchange, 2019. (Photo by SFE)*

# Budget Overview

- Discretionary funding
- Appropriated each fiscal year (FY)
- Available until expended (“no year”)
- Roughly \$1.0 billion in *regular* appropriations to the Wildland Fire Management account for each of fiscal years 2021 and 2022.
- Personnel: Above 5,000 (varies by year); mix of permanent (full-time and seasonal) and temporary



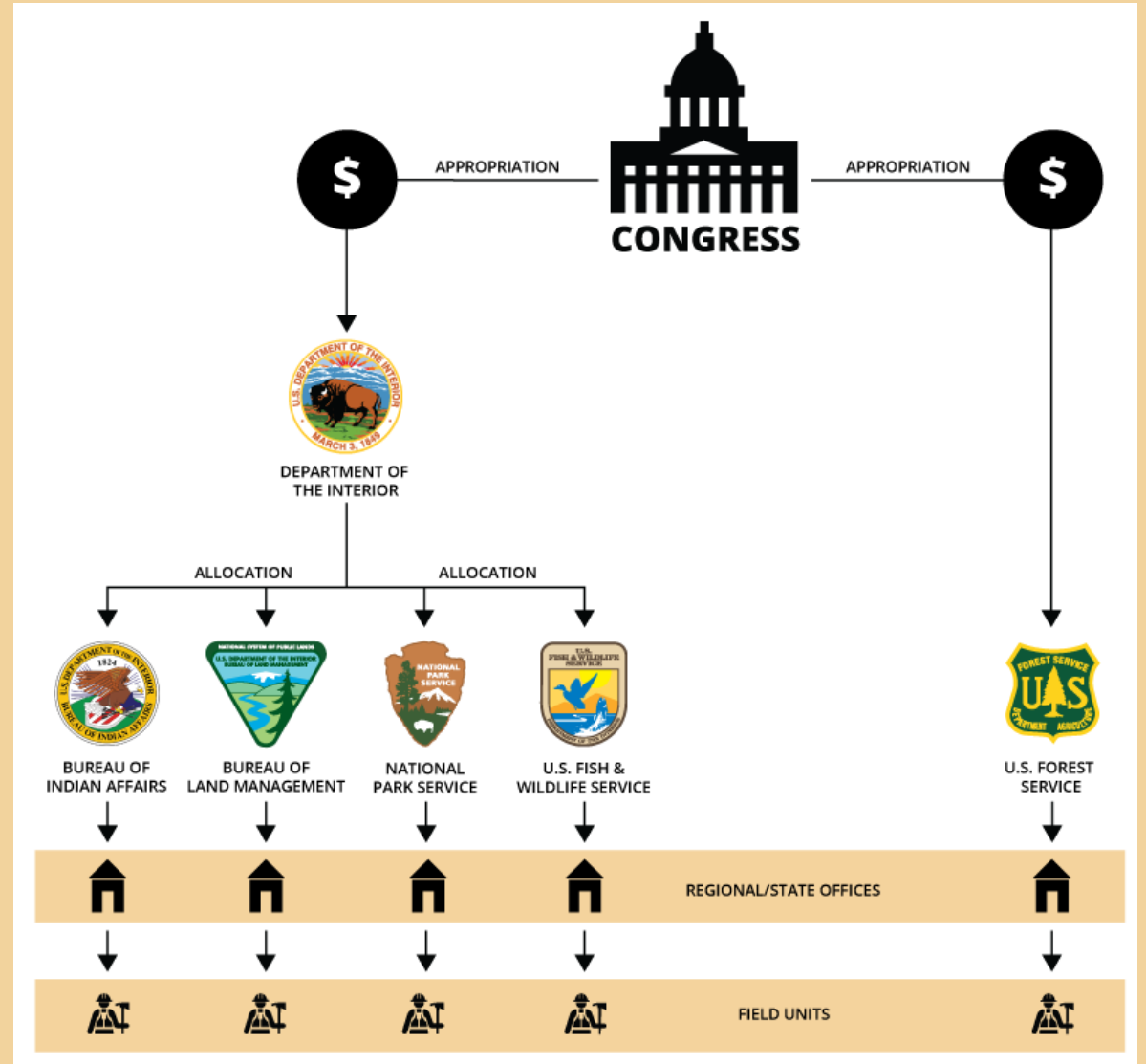




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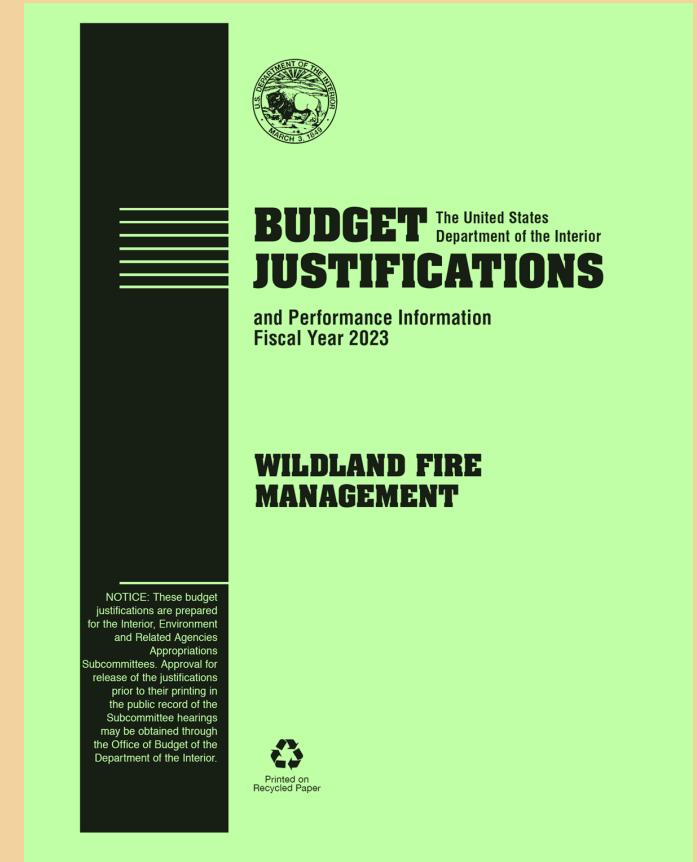
# How Funding is Made Available

- OMB apports enacted appropriations.
- OWF allocates.
- Bureaus allot to regional and state offices, who provide funds to the field.



# 2023 Budget Request

- **Wildland Fire Management:**  
**\$1.2 billion**
  - \$173.5 million (16.9%) above the 2022 Omnibus Level (Enacted)
  - Major increases for the Firefighting Workforce (especially Preparedness) and Fuels Management
- **Suppression Reserve Fund:**  
**\$340.0 million**



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# 2022 Appropriations and 2023 Budget

Regular Funding by Activity or Subactivity  (budget authority in thousands of dollars)	2022	2023		
	Enacted	President's Budget	Budget vs. 2022 (\$)	Budget vs. 2022 (%)
Preparedness	370,543	477,159	106,616	29%
Suppression Operations/ 1	383,657	383,657	-	0%
Fuels Management	227,000	304,344	77,344	34%
Burned Area Rehabilitation	22,470	20,470	(2,000)	-9%
Facilities	18,427	10,000	(8,427)	-46%
Joint Fire Science Program	4,000	4,000	-	0%
<b>TOTAL, Wildland Fire Management Account</b>	<b>1,026,097</b>	<b>1,199,630</b>	<b>173,533</b>	<b>17%</b>
Suppression Operations Reserve Fund/ 1	330,000	340,000	10,000	3%

1/ Funding in the Wildland Fire Management account for wildfire suppression is supplemented by the Reserve Fund.

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# Infrastructure Law Funding

- Nearly \$1.5 billion appropriated over 5 years
- No-year funding but specified amounts each fiscal year
- FY 2022: \$408 million
- Each of FYs 2023-2026: \$263 million



# Infrastructure Law Purposes

- **Preparedness (Workforce and Equipment)**

- \$245 million over 5 years



- **Fuels Management**

- \$878 million over 5 years



- **Post-Fire Recovery/Burned Area Rehabilitation**

- \$325 million over 5 years



- **Joint Fire Science Program**

- \$ 10 million over 5 years



# Priorities for 2022 through 2026

- Infrastructure Law
- Wildfire Suppression
- Firefighters
- Fuels Management
- Burned Area Rehabilitation
- Fire Science
- Partnerships



# Wildland Fire Management Partnerships

- Federal
  - USDA – Forest Service
  - NOAA – National Weather Service
  - DHS – Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Tribes
  - Intertribal Timber Council
- States
  - National Association of State Foresters
- Non-Profits
  - The Nature Conservancy