

**ADMINISTRATION**  
**FY2025 Budget****March 22, 2024**  
**Special Report #2601**

On March 11, President Biden released the \$7.3T FY2025 budget. He said his budget prioritizes lowering costs for citizens, cutting the deficit by promoting tax fairness, and investing in America and the American people. He highlighted investing in the reduction of environmental hazards for at-risk communities, strengthening climate resilience in communities and ecosystems, and honoring commitments to support tribal communities.

The budget requested \$7.2B for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), which provides \$79M for research and development to help reduce the cost to maintain existing water resources infrastructure and improve reliability, safety, and environmental sustainability. It also includes nearly \$1.6B to reduce flood and coastal storm damage, \$35.5M for technical and planning assistance programs for local communities, and \$7M under the water infrastructure finance program (CWIFP) for non-federal dam safety projects.

The budget requested \$17.8B for the Department of the Interior (DOI), an \$800M or 4.8% increase from the FY23 enacted level, which provides funding for wildfire management, Indian water rights settlements, cleaning up abandoned mines, and building climate resilience. The request for the DOI Wildland Fire Management program is \$1.6B, a 14.4% increase above FY24. The funding would support permanent pay increases for federal and tribal wildland firefighters and increase firefighting capacity. The budget requests \$2.8B in additional mandatory funding to the Indian Water Rights Settlement Completion Fund, as well as \$226M in discretionary funding to meet existing settlement obligations to the White Mountain Apache Tribe and Hualapai Tribe water rights settlements. The budget includes \$58.4M for the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Abandoned Mine Lands and Hazardous Material Management program, and \$7M for the Abandoned Hardrock Mine Reclamation Program. The budget provides an estimated \$5.5B that would help develop climate adaptation and resilience including \$69.3M to the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) National and Regional Climate Adaptation Centers (\$6.2M above FY24).

The USGS budget request is \$1.6B, \$81.1M above the 2024 continuing resolution (CR) level. This request includes \$309.6M (an increase of \$5.1M) for Water Resources programs which include the Water Availability and Use Science Program, the Groundwater and Streamflow Information Program, and the National Water Quality Program. The budget also funds the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) at \$1.6B, including \$65.6M for the WaterSMART programs and \$49.1M for the Lower Colorado River Operations Program.

The budget funds the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at nearly \$11B, an increase of \$858M or 8.4% above the FY23 level. The request proposes to eliminate Congressionally Directed Spending programs, also known as earmarks, for Clean Water and Drinking Water, in favor of increasing funds to State Revolving Funds by nearly \$1B collectively. The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) would be funded at \$1.2B, an increase of \$464.1M over 2024 CR levels. The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) programs would be funded at \$1.1B, an increase of \$609.3M over 2024 CR levels. The budget proposes to support the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program at \$80M. It also proposes to support lead reduction and wastewater treatment by allocating \$101M to grant programs for reducing lead in drinking water and lead testing in schools, \$5M for the Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program, and \$6M for Water Infrastructure Workforce Investment. The budget requests \$132M, \$49M above the FY23 enacted level, for carrying out Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) activities, including \$170M to continue to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

The budget requested \$29.2B in discretionary funding for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), a \$2B or 7.4% increase from the FY23 level. The budget allocates \$1.64B for the Farm Service Agency (FSA), \$5.25B to the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and \$10.49B to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Collectively these organizations fund and administer most of USDA's commodity, export, and conservation programs. The \$10.49B allocation to NRCS programs includes \$1.87B to the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), \$918M to the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and \$283M to the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). Rural Development (RD) is requested to be funded at \$881M.

The Department of Commerce FY25 budget request is \$11.4B, a \$287M or 2.4% increase above the FY23 level. This request includes \$6.6B in discretionary funding for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), including nearly \$646M for the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric research (OAR) (a decrease of \$142.5M) and \$1.37B for the National Weather Service (NWS) (a decrease of \$20M) which includes funds for operations of National Centers and models such as Climate Prediction Centers (CPC), the Environmental Modeling Center, and the Weather and Climate Operational

Supercomputing System (WCROSS). NOAA will decrease funding to competitive weather research program grants by \$8M, terminating competitions for Air Quality and Sub-Seasonal to Seasonal (S2S) programs. NOAA said: "S2S was selected because it is relatively new compared with other programs, so there is less impact to the research community from eliminating grant opportunities for these programs. NWS will continue to develop version 1 of the Seasonal Forecast System, although potentially slower without OAR investment in development, testing, and validation of the system. This OAR reduction will pause development of future versions of the Seasonal Forecast System." The budget requested \$2.14B for the National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service (NESDIS). Section 511(b)(1-3) of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020 directed NOAA and the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) to establish a pilot program within the National Mesonet Program (NMP) for the acquisition and use of drought-related data generated by a network of federal agencies. The act also requires the pilot program to conduct a study and report on the value of soil moisture and snowpack data to weather, subseasonal to seasonal, and climate forecasting products. The allocated funding for this provision in the FY25 budget is \$246,000.

The budget requested \$25.4B in discretionary funding for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), equal with 2024 CR levels, including \$2.4B for Earth Sciences. "Within Earth Science, NASA is restructuring missions within the Earth System Observatory. The Atmosphere Observing System (AOS) missions will be restructured to retain the partnership with [the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)] on their Precipitation Measurement Mission, formerly part of AOS-Storm. NASA is assessing options for implementing the remainder of the Aerosol and Cloud, Convection, and Precipitation designated observables. Similarly, the Surface Biology and Geology (SBG) mission will be split into two projects, [SBG]-Thermal Infrared (TIR) and SBG-hyperspectral visible to shortwave infrared (VSWIR), to maximize execution flexibility and reduce near-term budget requirements. The budget provides \$150M for Landsat Next." Under Earth Systematic Missions (ESM) the budget also requested \$29.3M for the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar Mission (NISAR), \$36.5M for the Sentinel-6 mission, \$26.3M for the Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, ocean Ecosystem (PACE) mission, \$102.4M for the Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE) - Continuity mission.