



# Appropriations Update

Committee on the Budget • Majority Caucus  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Jim Nussle, *Chairman*

309 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515 • (202) 226-7270  
James T. Bates, *Chief of Staff* • [www.budget.house.gov](http://www.budget.house.gov)

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## FISCAL YEAR 2007 INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL - H.R. 5386

### SUMMARY

The appropriations bill for the Federal Government's interior and environmental programs provides new budget authority equal to the suballocation to the Appropriations subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies. Therefore, the bill complies with provisions of the

Congressional Budget Act regarding consideration of spending measures. In addition, the bill includes neither emergency designations nor advance appropriations and, hence, complies with provisions of the budget resolution concerning those matters.

### COST OF THE LEGISLATION

The measure – formally the Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill – provides \$25.9 billion in new budget authority [BA] and \$26.9 billion in outlays for 2007. This level of spending is a decrease of \$4 million in BA – but an increase of \$178 million in outlays – from 2006. Outlays are growing while BA remains flat because cash payments are still being made from prior year's budget authority. The bill is \$441 million, or 1.7 percent, above the President's budget request (see Table 1 below).

The cost of the legislation is partly offset by two rescissions, one from a mandatory program, and one from a discretionary program. The change in mandatory spending stems from a \$30 million rescission of National Park Service contract authority allowing the National Park Service to enter into contracts to purchase lands under the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The contract authority is rescinded every year. The bill also includes a \$3-million rescission to the Environmental Protection Agency's clean diesel grant program.

**Table 1: Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill**  
(fiscal years; millions of dollars)

	2006 Spending	Administration 2007	302 (b) for 2007	Bill <sup>a</sup>
Budget Authority	25,893	25,478	25,889	25,889
Outlays	26,728	26,703	26,906	26,906

<sup>a</sup> Includes spending from changes in mandatory programs.

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This document was prepared by the majority staff of the Committee on the Budget, U.S. House of Representatives. It has not been approved by the full committee and may not reflect the views of all the committee's members.

## COMPLIANCE WITH THE BUDGET RESOLUTION

A conference agreement on the 2007 budget resolution has not yet been adopted by the Congress, although both House and Senate have each passed budget resolutions through their chambers. In order to proceed with the consideration of 2007 appropriations measures in the absence of a budget conference report, the House has agreed, with the adoption of the rule for consideration of this bill, to treat the House-passed budget resolution (H.Con.Res.376) as a conference report for purposes of the Congressional Budget Act. After passage of the rule (H.Res. 818), the Appropriations Committee submitted suballocations to its subcommittees (H.Rept. 109-471); this bill provides new BA equal to the subcommittee allocation, so is in

compliance with the Budget Act provisions regarding consideration of appropriations measures in excess of the suballocation. Further, because this is the first bill considered under the budget resolution, it does not cause a breach of the budgetary aggregates, which would violate the Budget Act.

In addition to Budget Act spending rules, the budget resolution also provides guidelines for the use of emergency-designated appropriations, and appropriations for fiscal years beyond the budget year (so called “advance appropriations”). This bill does not provide such appropriations.

**Table 2: Discretionary Spending in the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill**  
(in millions of dollars)

	2006 Budget Authority	2006 Outlays	2007 Budget Authority	2007 Outlays	Difference BA	Difference Outlays
Department of Interior . . . . .	9,731	9,894	9,612	9,834	-119	-60
<i>Bureau of Land Management</i> . . . . .	1,732	1,776	1,762	1,766	30	-10
<i>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</i> . . . . .	1,308	1,323	1,291	1,328	-17	5
<i>National Park Service</i> . . . . .	2,257	2,463	2,175	2,363	-82	-100
<i>Bureau of Indian Affairs</i> . . . . .	2,274	2,155	2,235	2,209	-39	54
<i>Other, Department of Interior</i> . . . . .	2,160	2,177	2,149	2,168	-11	-9
Environmental Protection Agency . . . . .	7,619	8,125	7,572	8,180	-47	55
Forest Service (USDA) . . . . .	4,202	4,392	4,194	4,413	-8	21
Health and Human Services . . . . .	3,198	3,176	3,350	3,311	152	135
Other . . . . .	1,143	1,141	1,161	1,168	18	27
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>25,893</b>	<b>26,728</b>	<b>25,889</b>	<b>26,906</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>178</b>

## DISCUSSION

The bill provides \$25.9 billion in discretionary BA to the Department of Interior. The level of funding is essentially the same as the enacted levels for fiscal year 2006, but the distribution of funding shows modest reductions (less than 2 percent) for many activities in order to provide increases for other activities. Significant changes include:

- *Indian Health Services* - The bill provides for a 4.8-percent increase in funding for the Indian Health Service, part of the Department of Health and Human Services.
- *Bureau of Land Management [BLM] and other small agencies* - The measure provides an increase of \$30 million, or 1.7 percent, for BLM’s energy programs and projects. Small agencies, such as the Smithsonian Institution and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, collectively received a 1.6-percent increase, or \$18 million in BA.
- *National Park Service* - A reduction of \$82 million, or 3.6 percent, occurs primarily in the area of construction. This includes the \$30 million rescission of mandatory

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contract authority for purchases from the Land and Water Conservation Fund mentioned earlier.

Another change in mandatory programs reduces the Coastal Impact Assistance Fund by 3 percent from 2007 to 2010 (\$9 million each year,) and redirects the money to the Mineral Management Service’s Royalty and Offshore Minerals Management Account. The Coastal Impact Assistance fund provides infrastructure and environmental remediation grants to states with oil and/or gas production on Outer Continental Shelf waters adjoining their borders. As a result

of this provision, transfers to states under the Coastal Impact Fund are reduced by \$9 million annually, and agency administrative spending is increased by an equal amount.

Finally, the bill does not assume any of the administration-proposed user fees for Environmental Protection Agency’s pesticide programs or the abandoned mine reclamation fees for the Department of Interior. The fiscal year 2006 supplemental bill for the war on terrorism and hurricane recovery as passed by the Senate on 4 May 2006, however, includes a version of the mine fees.

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Prepared by ..... **Winnie Chang, Appropriations Analyst; Jeffrey W. Hopkins, Budget Analyst**  
**Daniel J. Kowalski, Director of Budget Review**