



# Appropriations Update

Committee on the Budget • Majority Caucus  
U.S. House of Representatives  
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Volume 4, No. 1

16 June 2004

## INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005 – H.R. 4568

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### SUMMARY

The Interior appropriations bill reported to the House on 15 June 2004 (H.R. 4568; H.Rept. 108-542) provides new budget authority [BA] equal to the 302(b) suballocation for the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies. The bill is consistent with the budget resolution for fiscal year 2005 (S.Con.Res. 95, as applied to the House of Representatives by H.Res. 649, 108<sup>th</sup> Congress).

The reported bill contains a supplemental increase in BA and outlays for wildland fire suppression provided for in the budget resolution. The Budget Committee Chairman has increased the allocation to the Appropriations Committee to accommodate these additional funds, and the Appropriations Committee has revised the fiscal year 2005 302(b) allocation for Interior and Related Agencies to reflect this increase.

### COST OF THE LEGISLATION

H.R. 4568 provides \$19.999 billion in new BA and \$20.205 billion in outlays for 2005 – an increase of \$78 million in BA and \$629 million in outlays from fiscal year 2004 (see Table 1 on the next page). Budget authority increases by 0.4 percent from the previous year, and is \$19 million above the President's request.

Outlays are slightly higher than budget authority in part because the bill contains \$267 million in BA savings with no corresponding decrease in outlays. Of that amount, the bill saves \$237 million by delaying spending on clean coal

technology, and the remaining \$30 million in mandatory budget authority by reducing a National Park Service land acquisition account.

The bill does not contain new appropriations designated as emergencies. It does provide \$36 million in BA and outlays for advance appropriations, as well as \$500 million in new BA for both fiscal years 2004 and 2005, designated – pursuant to the budget resolution – as supplemental spending for wildland fire suppression activities that are normally funded in this bill.

### COMPLIANCE WITH THE BUDGET RESOLUTION

The bill complies with sections 302(f) and 311(a) of the Budget Act for fiscal year 2005. The first of these prohibits consideration of bills in excess of a subcommittee's 302(b) allocation for new budget authority. The second, section 311(a), prohibits consideration of legislation exceeding the aggregate levels of budget authority and outlays established in the budget resolution.

The \$19.999 billion in new discretionary BA equals the 302(b) allocation to the Appropriations Subcommittee on

Interior. Outlays of \$20.205 billion are \$3 million below the allocation. Because no appropriations bills for fiscal year 2005 have been enacted, there is ample room under the BA ceiling and hence the bill would not violate section 311(a).

The bill provides \$36 million in fiscal year 2006 BA for the Elk Hills School land fund. This advance appropriation is included on the list of programs eligible to receive them, so is exempt from the prohibition on advance appropriations established in section 401 of the budget resolution. The bill

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is generally consistent with the budget resolution for fiscal year 2005, and complies with the resolution regarding

wildland fire suppression activities. It does exceed the 2004 allocation because of a slight breach in that year.

**Table 1: Interior Appropriations Bill**  
(fiscal years; millions of dollars)

	2004 Spending	Administration 2005	302 (b) for 2005 <sup>1</sup>	Bill
Budget Authority	19,921	19,980	19,999	19,999
Outlays	19,576	19,972	20,208	20,205

<sup>1</sup>Includes a supplemental increase of \$500 million in BA and \$420 million in outlays for wildland fire suppression activities.

**Table 2: Discretionary Spending in the Interior Appropriations Bill**  
(in millions of dollars)

	2004 Budget Authority	2004 Outlays	2005 Budget Authority	2005 Outlays	Difference BA	Difference Outlays
Interior	9,697	9,660	9,806	9,821	109	161
<i>Bureau of Land Management</i>	1,645	1,739	1,834	1,887	189	148
<i>U.S. Fish and Wildlife</i>	1,324	1,257	1,263	1,191	(61)	(66)
<i>National Park Service</i>	2,328	2,363	2,268	2,375	(60)	12
<i>Bureau of Indian Affairs</i>	2,341	2,321	2,335	2,334	(6)	13
<i>Other Interior</i>	2,059	1,980	2,106	2,034	47	54
Agriculture - Forest Service	4,444	4,127	4,606	4,534	162	407
Energy	1,765	1,748	1,434	1,718	(331)	(30)
HHS - Indian Health Services	2,921	2,909	3,033	3,005	112	96
Other	1,094	1,132	1,120	1,127	26	(5)
Total	19,921	19,576	19,999	20,205	78	629

## DISCUSSION

The bill provides BA that is \$78 million higher than 2004 spending (see Table 2 above).

Compared to 2004, the spending for the Department of the Interior increased by a net \$109 million. Increases in the Bureau of Land Management (\$189 million) and other Interior activities (\$47 million), are partly offset by decreases in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (\$61 million), the National Park Service (\$60 million), and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (\$6 million).

Spending for the Forest Service increased by a net of \$162 million. Increases in wildland fire management (\$700 million) are partially offset by reductions in land acquisition

(\$147 million), capital improvement (\$127 million), State and private forestry (\$212 million), and other programs (\$52 million).

Spending for the Department of Energy's Energy Programs decreased by \$331 million; the Department of Health and Human Services' Indian Health Services spending increased by \$112 million.

Other spending in the bill increases by \$26 million due to increases for the Smithsonian Institution (\$23 million) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (\$3 million). Funding for the National Endowment for the Arts is unchanged from 2004 levels.

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Relative to the President’s request, the bill increases BA by a net of \$19 million. These relative increases appear in the Forest Service (\$408 million, largely due to a \$783-million increase in wildland fire management) and Indian Health Services (\$66 million). These are partly offset by reductions in the Departments of Energy (\$290 million) and the Interior (\$98 million), as well as other programs (\$67 million).

The Interior reductions relative to the President’s request include National Park Service (\$92 million), US Fish and Wildlife Services (\$63 million), and other Interior programs (\$136 million). These Department of Interior reductions are partly offset by increases in the Bureau of Land Management (\$112 million) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (\$81 million).

**OFFSETS**

*Changes in Mandatory Programs.* The bill contains changes to one mandatory program – a program not subject to annual appropriations – that generates savings to offset discretionary spending.

The bill reduces a mandatory National Park Service land acquisition account by \$30 million in BA, with no related

outlays. If the provisions were stricken, the bill would exceed its allocation under section 302(b) of the Budget Act.

*Deferral.* The bill defers \$237 million in BA for the Department of Energy’s clean coal technology program. This makes the funds – which will not be required for obligation in fiscal year 2005 – available in fiscal year 2006.

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