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House Appropriations Committee [Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill, Report, and Approved Amendments](#)

The House Appropriations Committee has approved a FY19 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act that provides \$35.252 billion overall, equal to the fiscal year 2018 enacted level. The bill increases certain agency budgets from FY18 levels including the National Park Service (NPS) by \$53 million (for total of \$3.25 billion) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) by \$19 million (for a total of \$1.2 billion), while decreasing other agency budget including a \$100 million reduction at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (for a total of \$7.96 billion) and an \$11 million reduction at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) (for a total of \$1.6 billion).

Program (funding levels in millions and rounded up to the nearest million)	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19 POTUS Request	FY19 House
EPA Brownfield Projects (assessment/cleanup)	80	80	80	62	80
EPA Categorical Grants (Sec 128, Brownfields)	48	48	48	32	48
Clean Water State Revolving Fund	1,394	1,394	1,394	1,394	1,394
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	863	863	863	863	863
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)	300	300	300	30	300
BEACH Grants	10	10	10	0	10
National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program	24	24	24	22	25
Long Island Sound Restoration	4	8	12	0	12
Chesapeake Bay Program	73	73	73	7	73
Section 106 Water Pollution Control	214	230	231	154	231
National Estuary Program	26	27	27	0	27
Land and Water Conservation Fund	450	400	425	n/a ¹	360
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)	452	465	500	465	500
USGS Water Resources	211	214	218	165	231

¹ The President’s budget includes a more than 90% reduction of LWFC activities. For further details, please see the following appendix to the FY 19 Interior’s Budget in Brief: https://edit.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/fy2019_bib_d0001.pdf

Other notable provisions:

Interior

North American Wetlands Conservation Fund

The House Report includes \$42 million, which is \$2 million more than FY18, and a little more than \$9 million above the Administration's budget request.

Aquatic Invasive Species and Asian Carp

The House Report includes almost \$22 million for the USFWS's invasive species activities. Of those funds, \$1 million is included to help States implement plans required by the National Invasive Species Act (NISA); \$1.6 million is for NISA coordination; \$10.4 million is for controlling Asian carp in the Mississippi and Ohio River Basins and preventing them from entering and establishing in the Great Lakes; and \$2 million is to prevent the spread of quagga and zebra mussels in the West.

Of the amount for Asian carp control and prevention, \$2 million is to expand and perfect the combined use of contract fishing and deterrents to extirpate Asian carp, including grass carp, where already established, pursuant to individual State laws and regulations and as called for in management plans. Contract fishing has proven to be an extremely effective management tool and it is not meant to develop a sustainable commercial fishery. The USFWS shall continue to work with its State partners to gather data to analyze the impacts of contract fishing to control abundance and movement of Asian carp.

USGS and the Great Lakes

The House Report includes language expressing concerns that despite collaborative efforts to understand and enhance the Great Lakes ecosystem, significant data gaps still exist. The Report encourages the Survey to host a collaborative forum with Federal, State, and Tribal partners, academia, and other interested stakeholders to share current science, identify data gaps and areas of concern, and to prioritize next steps and identify resources needed for a Great Lakes integrated science plan. The Survey should brief the Appropriations Committee on the findings from this forum and what is needed for this plan by the end of fiscal year 2019.

USGS and Invasive Species

The House Report includes language expressing continued concerns about the economic, ecologic, and health threats posed by invasive species, including Asian carp. The recommendation includes \$6.6 million for Asian carp control, which includes \$1 million for research on Asian grass carp to contain or eradicate them.

USGS Water Resources

The House Report includes \$231 million for Water Resources. Of this funding, \$92 million is for the National Water Quality Program and directs no less than \$2.82 million is for harmful algal blooms. The Urban Waters Federal Partnership is funded at the fiscal year 2018 enacted level of \$717,000.

The Report also includes \$87 million for the National Groundwater and Streamflow Information Program to improve the infrastructure investments in the nation's streamgauge network. The Report requires the USGS to provide the Appropriations Committee with a report on the Next Generation Water Observing

System, explaining the limitations of the current water monitoring system and the enhancements and modernization needed.

Historic Preservation Fund

The House Report includes approximately \$92 million, which is \$5 million below FY18 levels, but almost \$60 million above the Administration's budget request for the Historic Preservation Fund. Of these funds, approximately \$49 million is for State Historic Preservation Offices and \$11.5 million is for Tribal Historic Preservation Offices. Additionally, \$13.5 million is for competitive grants of which \$500,000 is for grants to underserved communities and \$13 million is for competitive grants to document, interpret, and preserve historical sites associated with the Civil Rights Movement.

EPA

Safe and Sustainable Water Resources

The House Report includes approximately \$95 million for EPA's Safe and Sustainable Water Resources. The Report includes language stating that Enhanced Aquifer Recharge (EAR) represents a key practice for the management and restoration of ecosystems and directs the EPA to coordinate with other Federal research efforts in this area. Given ongoing concerns related to Harmful Algal Bloom toxins in the Great Lakes and other coastal and inland waters, EPA is encouraged to continue working to understand the risk of exposure from such toxins, especially through pathways including recreation and drinking water.

Environmental Protection: National Priorities

The House Report includes almost \$13 million for a competitive grant program for qualified non-profit organizations, excluding institutions of higher education, to provide technical assistance for improved water quality or safe drinking water, adequate waste water to small systems or individual private well owners.

WaterSENSE Program

The House Report includes \$187 million in funding for the WaterSENSE program, while supporting ongoing activities related to integrated planning, which will be increasingly necessary as States and communities evaluate wastewater systems for lead contamination issues and pipe replacement.

Inland Oil Spills Program

The House Report includes \$18.2 million, which is equal to what was included in FY18 and \$2.5 million above the Administration's budget request, to prepare for and prevent release of oil in navigable waterways.

Diesel Emission Reduction Grants

The House Report includes \$100 million and directs EPA to continue to make at least 70 percent of grants available to improve air quality in non-attainment areas.

Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)

The House Report includes \$75 million for WIFIA, of which \$67 million is for direct loan subsidization which may translate into a potential loan capacity of more than \$8 billion to eligible entities for water infrastructure projects.