

From Federal Advocate Peter Umhofer:

Below is a full and complete set of items that could be included in the Legislative Committee staff report.

Fiscal Year 2025 Federal Budget

Below is a summary of the Fiscal Year 2025 Federal Budget proposal and items of interest to the Park District:

Department of the Interior - The bill provides \$17.8 billion—an increase of \$3.1 billion from fiscal year 2024

\$1.9 billion for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, \$178 million above the enacted level

\$3.74 million HCP assistance grants, \$4.26m below enacted level

\$8 million Conservation grants, \$4.3m below enacted level

\$73.8 million State and tribal wildlife grants, \$1.416m above enacted level

\$388 million Ecological Services, \$49.869m million above last year

\$3.6 billion for National Park Service, \$275 million above the enacted level.

\$3.087 billion for Operations of the National Park System, \$199 million above last year

Land and Water Conservation Fund – \$290.6 million for state and local grants, which \$110 million above last year. The budget says \$455 million for the state and local grants, but \$290.6 million really goes to grants because the account is used to pay for three FW programs, a NPS battlefield, and FS forest legacy program. The federal program would receive \$436 million.

Wildfire management - \$4.6 billion for wildfire programs at USDA and DOI, which is \$555 million above last year.

Department of Transportation - \$800 million RAISE grant program

Federal Emergency Management Agency - To be determined.

\$38 million for the American Climate Corps program

The fiscal 2025 budget marks the administration's first chance since the larger American Climate Corps executive order to ask for new funding for this specific program. Last year, the Administration announced the launch of the American Climate Corps (ACC) to mobilize a new generation of more than 20,000 clean energy, conservation, and climate resilience workers, and this year, the first cohort of ACC members will begin their service. The budget provides \$15 million to support and expand AmeriCorps' ACC hub and \$23 million to support over 1,700 additional ACC members, as well as \$8 billion in mandatory funding to support an additional 50,000 ACC members annually by 2031. The current 20,000 eligible participants in American Climate Corps is a new multiagency program the president created through an executive order last fall that would train and place young people in green jobs. The ACC will provide job training and service opportunities on a wide range of projects that tackle climate change in communities around the country. In the fiscal 2024 appropriations bill, Republicans succeeded in blocking new funding for the Agriculture Department to implement climate corps programs

Fiscal Year 2024 Federal Appropriations

On March 8, the U.S. Senate passed the FY24 appropriation bill package (Interior, Veterans Affairs, Agriculture, Commerce, Justice, Energy, Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development) by a vote of 75 to 22. On March 6, the bill was passed the U.S. House of Representatives by a vote of 339 to 85. The bill includes Bay Trail funding for the Park District. On March 22, the House and Senate passed the remaining six appropriations bill package (Defense, Labor, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, State, Financial Services) which includes wildfire mitigation funding for the Park District. Below is a summary:

Interior Appropriations Bill

The Interior Department will receive \$14.7 billion, which is about the same funding as last year.

Land and Water Conservation Fund \$900 million

Stateside LWCF \$89m rescinded from 2020 or earlier projects

BLM LWCF \$5m rescinded from 2020 or earlier projects

National Park Service \$3.325 billion, \$150m less than last year

Fish and Wildlife Service \$1.722 billion, \$51m less than last year

HCP assistance grants \$8m, \$362k less than last year

Conservation grants \$12.3m, \$338k less than last year

State and tribal wildlife grants \$72.384m, \$1.428m less than last year

Wildfire suppression program \$4.045 billion to DOI and USDA

Transportation Appropriations Bill

Congressional project funding: \$900k Martinez-Bay Trail funding (DOT-highway infrastructure program) was included by Rep. Garamendi in the FY24 Transportation Appropriations Bill.

DHS Appropriations Bill

Congressional project funding: \$1.383m for Wildfire Mitigation, and Safe, Resilient Forests and Communities (FEMA predisaster mitigation program) was included by Rep. Swalwell in the FY24 DHS Appropriations Bill.

CONGRESS: For the past six months, Congress has been focused on passing the Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations bills and, as a result is behind on the Fiscal Year 2025 bills. Most observers believe that this election year could slow down the appropriations bill process but we have to remain hopeful that the bills will pass on time. The Park District is working with the congressional delegation on FY25 funding requests. And the Park District did receive \$1.383 million for wildfire mitigation funding, led by Rep. Swalwell, and \$900,000 for the Martinez-Bay Trail funding, led by Rep. Garamendi.

EARTH DAY: The Administration is considering a set of policy announcements in or around April 22, which is Earth Day. The announcements could include expansion of Berryessa national monument, expansion of the San Gabriel Mountain national monument, and a blm conservation rule. Over the past two weeks, the administration has announced new rules on power plant emissions, methane emissions, vehicle emissions and truck emissions.

CLIMATE CORPS: In the Fiscal Year 2025 federal budget, President Biden proposed \$8 billion for the Climate Corps program that would enroll 50,000 young people in a green jobs training and placement program. Republicans have quickly pushed back on this proposal and do not like that the administration established the program through an executive order last fall. Recent polling from Data for Progress shows that 71 percent of all likely voters surveyed last October supported the concept of an American Climate Corps and 58 percent of poll respondents identified as Republican. Supporters have said they would settle for a down payment while helping to organize strong participation to show enthusiasm for the effort, making it difficult for a future Republican administration to dismantle or politically unpopular for Republicans to continue to thwart through the appropriations process. The Climate Corps program funding was dropped during the Inflation Reduction Act negotiations.