

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

March 17, 2016

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Udall:

On behalf of my constituents in Washington state, I am pleased to submit to you, and the members of the subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, my requests for the Fiscal year 2017 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies bill. I respectfully request you review and consider the attached items as you assemble the initial Chairman's mark and print for Subcommittee consideration.

I appreciate your consideration of these requests. If you have any questions about the attached requests, please contact Pete Modaff (4-9092) or Ada Waelder (4-8286).

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

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Request 1

Agency: USGS
Account: Natural Hazards
Program: Earthquake Hazards
President's Budget: 62,196,000
Member's Request: 70,100,000
Report Language: *Earthquake Hazards.--The Committees supports efforts to continue developing an earthquake early warning prototype system on the West Coast. The Committee is concerned about the lack of knowledge and real-time instrumentations available for the Cascadia subduction zone. Our scientific understanding of earthquakes and the ocean environment will benefit from the wealth of offshore data collected and the continued development of an early earthquake warning system for the Cascadia system to help prepare for and mitigate the negative human and economic impacts of the Pacific Northwest like those felt by Japan in 2011.*

Description: Research published by the U.S. Geological Survey estimates that there is approximately a 40% chance of a major earthquake caused by the Cascadia subduction zone striking the west coast within the next 50 years. Scientists also estimate that the strength of this earthquake could approach 9.0, the intensity of the Tohoku quake which struck Japan in March of 2011. The Tohoku earthquake and subsequent tsunami took the lives of eighteen thousand people, and cost an estimated two hundred and twenty billion dollars. An earthquake caused by the Cascadia subduction zone could devastate significant portions of the west coast, as the Cascadia subduction zone encompasses California, Oregon, Washington, and portions of British Columbia. Importantly, the first comprehensive analysis of Cascadia subduction zone and its potential risks was published just in 2012, and this emerging information requires significant and urgent investments in earthquake preparedness and resiliency.

Staff Contact: Nicole Teutschel (4-5471)

Request 2

Agency: EPA
Account: Water: Ecosystems
Program: National Estuary Program/Coastal Waterways
President's Budget: 27,191,000
Member's Request: 26,723,000
Description: This program provides operational support to 28 National Estuary Programs. Over half the U.S. population lives within 100 miles of a coast, including the shores of estuaries. Coastal watershed counties provided 69 million jobs and contribute \$7.9 trillion to the Gross Domestic Product. It is critical that we preserve this precious ecosystems, but for conservation and to protect our local economies.

Staff Contact: Nicole Teutschel (4-5471)

Request 3

Agency: BIA
Account: Construction
Program: Education Construction
President's Budget: 138,257,000
Member's Request: 138,257,000
Description: These funds go to the construction and rehabilitation of Tribal schools and Tribal contract schools. Education is a critical aspect of raising the next generation of Tribal members, and ensuring that culture and traditions are transferred to the next generation. However, schools throughout Indian Country are in disrepair, and Bureau of Indian Education lacks the necessary resources to address this issue.
Staff Contact: Will Hazzard (4-3473)

Request 4

Agency: EPA
Account: Geographic Programs
Program: Puget Sound
President's Budget: 30,034,000
Member's Request: 30,034,000
Description: These funds are also sub awarded to local governments, non-profits, businesses and universities for projects and activities necessary to implement the Action Agenda for the restoration of Puget Sound. Over 200 awards recipients are focused on implementation of ecosystem restoration and water pollution abatements projects, scientific research and monitoring, and local community engagement and education on efforts underway to restore the Sound.
Staff Contact: Nicole Teutschel (4-5471)

Request 5

Agency: BIA
Account: Public Safety and Justice
Program: None
President's Budget: 373,460,000
Member's Request: 377,423,000
Description: Funding for justice programs is essential for protecting our Tribal communities and giving Tribes the necessary resources to assert their self-determination. Justice program and grants fund staff, justice centers, and rehabilitation programs that promote safe communities throughout Indian country. Funding for these programs is even more important as Tribes take on increased sentencing authority to prosecute domestic abusers through the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization of 2013.
Staff Contact: Will Hazzard (4-3473)

Request 6

Agency: USGS
Account: Ecosystems
Program: Cooperative Research Units
President's Budget: 18,234,000
Member's Request: 18,234,000

Description: The USGS Cooperative Research Units (CRU) has been cooperative network to work with Interior partners to improve and increase youth involvement in Interior science and resources management. The committee recognizes the value of these programs in building the workforce of tomorrow and strongly encourages the department develop a plan and address open research positions at research institutions and fill open positions available at CRUs as quickly as practicable so as to not jeopardize the educational pipeline.

Staff Contact: Nicole Teutschel (4-5471)

Request 7

Agency: USFS
Account: Capital Improvement and Maintenance
Program: Legacy Roads and Trails
President's Budget: 40,000,000
Member's Request: 50,000,000

Description: Since its inception in FY 2008, the Legacy Roads and Trails program has significantly enhanced the Forest Service's ability to address problems associated with its aging and poorly maintained road system. This includes repairing roads and trails needed for public access, replacing failed or undersized culverts to benefit fish populations, and preventing sediment pollution from entering waterways important for salmon, trout, and other aquatic species. Since 2008 the program has maintained/storm proofed 17,997 miles of roads, restored 1,000 fish passage sites, fixed 4,390 miles of trails, reduced road maintenance costs by about \$3.5 million per year, and created or maintained an average of 800-1,200 jobs annually.

Contact: Bryan Petit (4-5243)

Request 8

Agency: DOI
Account: Land and Water Conservation Fund
Program: None
President's Budget: 900,000,000
Member's Request: 900,000,000

Description: The LWCF was designed specifically to not use taxpayer dollars, and the LWCF receipts are not revenues for general purposes, but rather payments to the government specifically intended for conservation spending. This funding helps protect national parks, forests, wildlife refuges and other public lands, and provides important funding for state and local parks outdoor recreation opportunities.

Staff Contact: Spencer Gray (4-4608)

Request 9

Agency: National Endowment for the Humanities

Account: None

Program: None

President's Budget: 149,800,000

Member's Request: 149,800,000

Description: The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is the primary source of federal support for humanities research and related activities in the United States. The NEH promotes excellence in the humanities and enables local communities to facilitate scholarly research, lead family literacy programs, and preserve and provide access to cultural and education resources. This funding will support the agency's partnerships with state humanities councils that engage Americans in the lessons of history.

Staff Contact: Amanda Turner (4-0199)

Request 10

Agency: FWS

Account: Habitat Conservation

Program: Partners for Fish & Wildlife

President's Budget: 54,047,000

Member's Request: 54,407,000

Description: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partner's Program has provided the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups (RFEG) with about \$1.4 million annually or roughly 63 percent of their operating budgets since 1998. The funding requested is essential to hire and retain talented staff, support public outreach efforts, and assist with operational expenses that provide the foundation to RFEGs to leverage funding 10-to-1 for every taxpayer dollar.

Staff Contact: Pete Modaff (4-9092)

Request 11

Agency: National Endowment for the Arts

Program: None

Account: None

President's Request: 149,800,000

Member's Request: 149,800,000

Description: For 50 years, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has provided strategic leadership and investment in the arts and has expanded arts activity across the nation. The requested funding for FY17 for the NEA will help the endowment maintain its extremely successful programs, including The Big Read, Our Town, Challenge America, Art Works, and Creativity Connects.

Staff Contact: Amanda Turner (4-0199)

Request 12

Agency: NPS
Account: Historic Preservation Fund
Program: None
President's Budget: 87,410,000
Member's Request: 87,410,000
Description: The Historic Preservation Fund is a federal account from off shore oil lease revenues. The federal historic preservation funds, and general fund match, are the operating funds for the State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. Without annual funding the agency cannot operate. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires every federal undertaking (direct and indirect funding, license or permit) to be reviewed by the state historic preservation office and tribes for impacts to historic properties. Section 101 of the Act requires the state to be the central repository for all cultural resource data.
Staff Contact: Pete Modaff (4-9092)

Request 13

Agency: EPA
Account: Infrastructure/STAG Project Financing
Program: Clean Water State Revolving Fund
President's Budget: 979,500,000
Member's Request: 979,500,000
Description: Under the CWSRF, EPA provides grants to all 50 states plus Puerto Rico to capitalize state CWSRF loan programs. The states contribute an additional 20 percent to match the federal grants. Building on a federal investment of over \$37 billion, the state CWSRFs have provided more than \$105.4 billion to communities through 2014.
Staff Contact: Pete Modaff (4-9092)

Request 14

Agency: EPA
Account: Infrastructure/STAG Project Financing
Program: Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
President's Budget: 1,020,500
Member's Request: 1,020,500
Description: The DWSRF is a financial assistance program to help water systems and states to achieve the health protection objectives of the State Drinking Water Act. EPA awards capitalization grants to each state for their DWSRF based upon the results of the most recent Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment. The state provides a 20 percent match. Building on a federal investment of over \$17.3 billion, the state DWSRFs have provided more than \$27.9 billion to water systems through 2014.
Staff Contact: Pete Modaff (4-9092)

Request 15

Agency: EPA
Account: Categorical Grants
Program: Categorical Grant: Beaches Protection

President's Budget: 0

Member's Request: 9,549,000

Description: Since the BEACH Act became law in 2000, water quality testing grants have benefitted coastal communities from New Jersey to Oregon, Maine to Florida, and the Great Lakes to the Gulf Coast. America's beaches and lakeshores are some of our country's greatest natural resources, hosting over 100 million visitors each year. Swimming in polluted water exposes people to pathogens that can cause gastrointestinal illness, skin rashes, and ear, eye, and staph infections. The elimination of these BEACH Act grant funds would likely result in a reduction of information about these important public health concerns. It would also put at risk the nation's \$100 billion coastal tourism and recreation sectors, which are driven by public confidence in healthy beaches.

Staff Contact: Nicole Teutschel (4-5471)

Additionally, I co-signed the following letters in support of appropriations for important programs funded by this Subcommittee:

- Legacy Roads and Trails
- West Coast Earthquake Early Warning System
- State and Tribal Wildlife Grants
- National Estuary Program
- North American Wetlands Conservation Act
- Brownfields Program
- Grassroots and Small Community Water Systems Act
- National Park Funding
- Clean Water State Revolving Fund, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
- LWCF and Forest Legacy Program
- Bureau of Indian Education, Education Construction