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Bureau of Land Management: FY2027 Appropriations

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), in the Department of the Interior (DOI), manages 243 million acres of federal land, nearly all in the West. Under its multiple-use mission, BLM manages lands for diverse purposes, including livestock grazing, energy development, recreation, and conservation. The agency also administers onshore federal energy and mineral resources generally. BLM discretionary appropriations typically are provided in Title I of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations acts. In addition, BLM receives mandatory (permanent) appropriations under various statutes. *The Interior Budget in Brief* estimated FY2027 mandatory appropriations at $339.7 million.

FY2027 Discretionary Appropriations Action

On June 5, 2026, the House Appropriations Committee reported H.R. 9171 with $1,318.7 million for BLM for FY2027. This reflects a $59.6 million (4%) decrease from the $1,378.4 million appropriated for FY2026 in P.L. 119-74, Division C. The House committee-reported amount would be $420.4 million (47%) more than President Trump's FY2027 request of $898.4 million. (See **Table 1**). BLM also receives a portion of DOI appropriations for wildland fire management, which is not reflected in BLM's FY2026 or FY2027 funding levels.

P.L. 119-103 provides continuing appropriations for BLM (and other agencies) for FY2027, if full-year appropriations are not enacted by the start of the fiscal year on October 1, 2026. The measure would provide BLM with appropriations at FY2026 levels in P.L. 119-74, through December 11, 2026, unless other appropriations are enacted earlier.

Discretionary Appropriations Accounts

Management of Lands and Resources (MLR). This account is BLM's largest and funds diverse activities and subactivities. **Table 2** shows amounts for the account's nine main activities. H.R. 9171, as reported, contained $1,177.8 million for the account. This would be $49.1 million (4%) less than the $1,226.9 million enacted for FY2026. It would provide various changes relative to FY2026, with increased funding for two activities, decreased funding for five activities, and level funding for two activities. A ninth activity—mining law administration—would also receive level funding; however, appropriations for this program are offset by certain fee revenue. H.R. 9171 anticipates a $1.0 million increase in this offsetting revenue for FY2027 from FY2026 levels. For FY2027, H.R. 9171, as reported, would provide $381.2 million (48%) more than the President's request of $796.6 million, with higher funding than requested for seven activities and equal funding for three.

Oregon and California Grant Lands. This account funds management of more than 2 million acres of forested lands in western Oregon, primarily for timber production. H.R. 9171, as reported, contained $105.0 million for the account. This would be $10.6 million (9%) less than the $115.5 million enacted for FY2026, and $39.2 million (60%) more than the President's FY2027 request.

Range Improvements. The Range Improvements account funds rehabilitation, protection, and improvement of BLM rangelands. By law, 50% of grazing fees collected on BLM lands or $10.0 million—whichever is greater—is credited to a Range Improvements Fund. In FY2026, as in many other recent years, BLM grazing receipts were less than $20.0 million annually, and BLM received $10.0 million through this account. For FY2027, H.R. 9171 as reported, and the President's request, also contained $10.0 million.

Service Charges, Deposits, and Forfeitures. This account allows BLM to use monies paid to the agency for activities such as energy and minerals authorizations. H.R. 9171, as reported, estimated $30.0 million, offset by collections, for a net appropriation of $0. This was the same as enacted for FY2026 and contained in the President's FY2027 request.

Miscellaneous Trust Funds. This account appropriates contributions made to BLM (e.g., from individuals, states, and businesses). H.R. 9171, as reported, estimated $26.0 million, the same as enacted for FY2026 and included in the President's FY2027 request.

Selected Issues

A perennial issue is how to allocate BLM funding among diverse accounts, programs, and activities, and the conditions for such funding. For FY2027, particular issues relate to deferred maintenance (DM), land acquisition, wild horses and burros, and energy and minerals, among others.

Deferred Maintenance. For FY2025 (most recent year available), BLM estimated DM of its assets at $6.60 billion. In most recent years, BLM has received both discretionary and mandatory appropriations for DM. However, neither enacted FY2026 appropriations nor FY2027 appropriations in H.R. 9171, as reported, specify a discretionary amount. For FY2027, the President requested $11.4 million.

BLM received annual mandatory appropriations of $95.0 million for DM for FY2021-FY2025, through the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund (LRF), established by P.L. 116-152, the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA). The effect of this funding is not clear because appropriations can take multiple years to spend, and DM estimation methods have changed, among other factors. In the FY2027 request, the President proposed reauthorizing the LRF. The House Appropriations Committee directed relevant agencies to provide a briefing on ways to address DM and expressed interest in revising bill and report language, if necessary, if the LRF is reauthorized. Congress is considering related measures.

Table 1. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Discretionary Appropriations by Account ($ in millions)

Account	FY2026 Enacted P.L. 119-74	FY2027 Requested	% Change from FY2026	FY2027 H. Comm. H.R. 9171	% Change from FY2026
Management of Lands and Resources	$1,226.9	$796.6	-35%	$1,177.8	-4%
Oregon and California Grant Lands	115.5	65.8	-43%	105.0	-9%
Range Improvements	10.0	10.0	0%	10.0	0%
Service Charges, Deposits, and Forfeitures	0	0	0%	0	0%
Miscellaneous Trust Funds	26.0	26.0	0%	26.0	0%
Total BLM	**$1,378.4**	**$898.4**	**-35%**	**$1,318.7**	**-4%**

Sources and Notes: Amounts taken from H.Rept. 119-687 on H.R. 9171. For FY2026 enacted, see also the joint explanatory statement for P.L. 119-74, Division C. Amounts for Service Charges, Deposits, and Forfeitures are $0 due to an appropriation matched by offsetting fees.

Table 2. Activities Within Management of Lands and Resources (MLR) Account ($ in millions)

Activity	FY2026 Enacted P.L. 119-74	FY2027 Requested	% Change from FY2026	FY2027 H. Comm. H.R. 9171	% Change from FY2026
Land Resources	$284.7	$192.1	-33%	$285.6	+<1%
Wildlife & Aquatic Habitat Management	198.9	59.9	-70%	198.9	0%
Recreation Management	72.0	28.0	-61%	73.0	+1%
Energy & Minerals	212.1	197.7	-7%	211.5	-<1%
Realty & Ownership Management	90.0	77.5	-14%	77.5	-14%
Resource Protection & Maintenance	141.5	99.6	-30%	133.6	-6%
Transportation & Facilities Maintenance	48.6	31.4	-35%	42.4	-13%
Workforce & Organizational Support	153.2	130.4	-15%	130.4	-15%
National Conservation Lands	59.1	14.3	-76%	59.1	0%
Mining Law Administration[a]	-33.3	-34.3	-3%	-34.3	-3%
Total MLR	**$1,226.9**	**$796.6**	**-35%**	**$1,177.8**	**-4%**

Sources and Notes: See sources and notes for **Table 1**.

a. The appropriation is reduced by collected fees. Because the collected fees are higher than the appropriation, the amounts are shown as negative. FY2027 appropriations requested by the President and provided in H.R. 9171 are level with FY2026 ($42.7 million). However, the FY2027 request and H.R. 9171 reflect higher ($77.0 million) anticipated offsetting collections than FY2026 ($76.0 million).

Land Acquisition. Under GAOA, BLM has received mandatory appropriations from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to acquire lands. GAOA generally requires the President to submit to Congress detailed account, program, and project allocations as part of the annual budget submission. Congress may provide an alternate allocation. The FY2026 appropriation was $66.0 million for BLM land acquisition. For FY2027, H.R. 9171, as reported, would allocate $58.9 million, which aligns with the total proposed by the President. The bill (§427) also contained related direction for agencies to notify the House Appropriations Committee before expending LWCF funds on projects other than the specific tracts described in agency requests.

Wild Horses and Burros. The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 (16 U.S.C. §§1331 et seq.) requires BLM (and Forest Service) management and protection of wild horses and burros. In 2026, there are an estimated 85,466 wild horses and burros on BLM lands, more than triple the level that BLM determined the range can support (25,592). In addition, in 2026, BLM manages an estimated 58,025 animals off range. H.R. 9171, as reported, contained $144.0 million for wild horse and burro management in the MLR account (Land Resources activity), level with FY2026 funding. The President requested $106.8 million for FY2027, a $37.2 million (26%) reduction, to "focus on highest priorities." Both the President and House Appropriations Committee supported various options to reduce excess animals on the range and program costs, including fertility control, removal, and adoption. BLM also indicated an intent to prioritize "expansion of large-scale placement and sales activities," which at times have been controversial.

Energy and Minerals Management. In addition to managing 243 million acres of land, BLM manages approximately one-third of the country's subsurface mineral estate, or about 700 million acres. H.R. 9171, as reported, contained $211.5 million for energy and minerals management—$0.6 million (<1%) below the FY2026 level ($212.1 million) and $13.9 million (7%) above the President's request ($197.7 million). The committee indicated "strong support for the President's strategy to unleash America's vast energy resources on public lands." H.R. 9171 also would provide $12.0 million for renewable energy for geothermal energy development. The President's FY2027 request proposed zeroing out renewable energy ($25.0 million in FY2026) while increasing funding for management of oil, gas, and coal.

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