

including the so-called "super reach back" companies, the "reach back" companies, the United Mine Workers of America and the Bituminous Coal Operators Association to work together to rectify this situation.

The managers note that the Office of Surface Mining estimates that over \$3 billion worth of priorities one and two reclamation program needs remain in the inventory of abandoned mined land problems nationwide. The Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund should be conserved, to the extent possible, in order to fund these necessary projects as well as other authorized uses of interest earned by this fund.

TITLE VIII

LAND CONSERVATION, PRESERVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT

The conference agreement inserts a new title to the bill creating a six-year Land Conservation, Preservation and Infrastructure Improvement program within the Federal budget and provides increased funding for the first year of this program, fiscal year 2001. This action recognizes land conservation and related activities as critical National priorities and provides a mechanism to guarantee significantly increased funding for critical land acquisition and other land protection programs. The program is not

mandatory and does not guarantee annual appropriations. The House and Senate Committees on Appropriations have discretion in the amounts to be appropriated each year, subject to certain maximum amounts as described herein. The program is authorized for a period of six years. Extension beyond six years is a decision that is left to future Congresses.

The new program created by this title, in addition to augmenting funding for land conservation and preservation tools, also recognizes the need to address critical maintenance problems on our Federal lands and permits the use of a portion of fiscal year 2001 funding and future years' funding for the most critical problems in our parks, refuges, forests and other public lands. Likewise, a portion of funding for payments in lieu of taxes are permitted and these funds are in addition to base funding under the Bureau of Land Management in title I.

The managers believe that, when acquiring new lands, the Federal government has a responsibility to provide funding for the maintenance of those lands and for payments in lieu of taxes to the local communities where those lands are located. The funds for maintenance and payments in lieu of taxes, provided by the Land Conservation, Preservation and Infrastructure Improvement pro-

gram are in addition to baseline funding for maintenance and payments in lieu of taxes provided in the operational accounts of the land management agencies funded in this Act.

Part A: Fiscal year 2001 funding.—The conference agreement provides for total maximum funding of \$1,600,000,000 for the first year of the six-year Land Conservation, Preservation and Infrastructure Improvement program. It includes appropriations totaling \$1,200,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 for programs in the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture. The \$1,200,000,000 is approximately triple the historic funding for such activities. This includes \$686,000,000 for activities in this title to augment the \$514,000,000 for such activities provided in other titles of the Interior bill.

The remaining \$400,000,000, which is authorized herein, is for programs under the jurisdiction of the Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations Subcommittee, including the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery program, and will be considered in that bill.

The specific amounts provided for the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture for these programs in fiscal year 2001 are as follows:

| Program category | This title | Other titles | Total this bill |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Federal and State LWCF programs | \$229 million | \$311 million | \$540 million. |
| State and other conservation programs | \$218 million | \$82 million | \$300 million. |
| Urban & historic preservation programs | \$39 million | \$121 million | \$160 million. |
| Additional funding for maintenance | \$150 million | NA | +\$150 million. |
| Additional funding for payments in lieu of taxes | \$50 million | NA | +\$50 million. |
| Coastal programs (NOAA) | NA | NA | Commerce/State/Justice bill. |
| Total | \$686 million | \$514 million | \$1.2 billion. |

The distribution of the funds for fiscal year 2001 among the land management agencies and the U.S. Geological Survey is specified in the bill. The managers have not, however, mandated a distribution of individual land acquisition projects or Forest Service Forest legacy funds. These decisions are left to the Committees on Appropriations in consultation with the land management agencies. The final distribution will be based on programmatic needs and will be determined by the Committees during fiscal year 2001.

In making funding distributions for maintenance projects, the managers expect the agencies to address critical maintenance backlogs. These additional funds are for repair and rehabilitation of existing facilities or roads and may not be used for new and expanded facilities or roads.

The managers expect the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop a cost-shared, competitively-awarded, project-based program for the use of State wildlife grant funding and to present their proposal to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations for review and approval prior to the use of any funds for these grants. The funds should not be distributed on a formula basis and every effort should be made to leverage Federal funding to the maximum extent possible. The managers point to the joint venture program as a good model to pursue.

The managers expect the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to work with the States to develop wildlife conservation plans. The managers do not object to the use of a portion of the funds provided for State wildlife grants for such required plans, subject to cost sharing by the States. Each State plan should meet requirements that are established by the Service. Each plan should provide for the conservation of the State's full array of wildlife and their habitats, with emphasis placed on those species conservation efforts that are most underfunded and have the greatest conservation need. The

Service shall not provide a grant to any State unless the State has, or commits to develop by a mutually agreed date certain, the required plan.

The specific amounts for programs within each category for the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture are shown in the following table:

LAND CONSERVATION, PRESERVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

(Dollars in thousands)

| Program categories | This title | Other titles | Total in this bill |
|---|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Dept. of the Interior Land Acquisition | \$130,000 | \$163,940 | \$293,940 |
| US Forest Service Land Acquisition | 49,000 | 106,505 | 155,505 |
| State Land Acquisition and Assistance | 50,000 | 40,500 | 90,500 |
| Federal and State LWCF | 229,000 | 310,945 | 539,945 |
| FWS—Cooperative Endangered Species Fund | 78,000 | 26,925 | 104,925 |
| FWS—State Wildlife Grants | 50,000 | 0 | 50,000 |
| FWS—N. American Wetlands Conservation | 20,000 | 20,000 | 40,000 |
| USGS—Science Programs | 20,000 | 5,000 | 25,000 |
| FS—Forest Legacy | 30,000 | 30,000 | 60,000 |
| FS—additional planning/inventory/monitoring | 20,000 | NA | 20,000 |
| State and Other Conservation Programs | 218,000 | 81,925 | 299,925 |
| NPS—Urban Parks Restoration and Recovery | 20,000 | 10,000 | 30,000 |
| NPS—Historic Preservation | 15,000 | 73,347 | 88,347 |
| FS—Urban & Community Forestry | 4,000 | 31,721 | 35,721 |
| Youth Conservation Corps | 0 | 6,000 | 6,000 |
| Urban and Historic Preservation | 39,000 | 121,068 | 160,068 |
| Additional funding for Maintenance | 150,000 | NA | 150,000 |
| Additional funding—Payments in Lieu of Taxes | 50,000 | NA | 50,000 |
| Coastal Programs (NOAA programs to be addressed in Commerce-State-Justice bill) | NA | NA | (1) |

LAND CONSERVATION, PRESERVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM—Continued

(Dollars in thousands)

| Program categories | This title | Other titles | Total in this bill |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Total | \$686,000 | \$513,938 | \$1,199,938 |

¹ C/S Bill.

The \$78,000,000 provided for the cooperative endangered species conservation fund includes \$28,000,000 for grants to the States and \$50,000,000 for habitat conservation planning land acquisition.

The \$200,000,000 provided in this title for science programs in the U.S. Geological Survey includes \$7,000,000 for national mapping of which \$5,000,000 is for national cooperative geologic mapping and \$2,000,000 is for earth science information management and delivery, \$5,000,000 for water resources/stream gauges, \$3,000,000 for biological research of which \$2,000,000 is to initiate aquatic GAP analysis and \$1,000,000 is to accelerate GAP analysis in the contiguous 48 States, and \$5,000,000 for science support/accessible data transfer.

The additional \$20,000,000 for Forest Service planning, inventory and monitoring should be used to address high priority needs for these activities within the National Forest System.

The \$15,000,000 provided in this title for historic preservation includes \$12,000,000 for State historic preservation offices and \$3,000,000 for tribal grants.

The additional \$150,000,000 provided in this title for maintenance includes \$25,000,000 for the Bureau of Land Management, \$25,000,000 for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, \$50,000,000 for the National Park Service and \$50,000,000 for the Forest Service.

Part B: Land Conservation, Preservation and Infrastructure Improvement Trust Fund.—Part

B of this title establishes the Land Conservation, Preservation and Infrastructure Improvement program budget mechanism which provides a six-year funding priority within the Federal budget for land conservation activities by setting aside funds each year over and above the amounts available under Congressional Budget Resolutions for all other discretionary activities of the government. The amounts for each year are as follows:

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Fiscal year: | |
| 2001 | \$1,600,000,000 |
| 2002 | 1,760,000,000 |
| 2003 | 1,920,000,000 |
| 2004 | 2,080,000,000 |
| 2005 | 2,240,000,000 |
| 2006 | 2,400,000,000 |

These amounts are set aside and automatically available under the Budget Resolution each year for Land Conservation, Preservation and Infrastructure Improvement programs but are subject to annual appropriations. The exact amount and the distribution among programs will be set in annual appropriation bills based on need and program performance. The language provides a "fencing" mechanism, however, so that funds are only available for the specific set of budget activities and accounts listed in the Land Conservation, Preservation and Infrastructure Improvement program. The text of the language in Part B follows the model established in 1995 for the Violent Crime Trust Fund.

There are six identified program categories for each year. Each category has an identified "fenced cap" for each fiscal year. The amount of each cap does not assure appropriations for that amount but does assure that funds from within one category are not

shifted to another category. The caps by category are shown in the following table:

| <i>Program category</i> | <i>Fenced cap</i> |
|--|----------------------|
| Federal and State LWCF ... | \$540,000,000 |
| State and other conservation programs | 300,000,000 |
| Urban and historic preservation programs | 160,000,000 |
| Additional funding for maintenance | 150,000,000 |
| Additional funding for payments in lieu of taxes | 50,000,000 |
| Coastal programs (Department of Commerce/NOAA) | 400,000,000 |
| Total | 1,600,000,000 |

Any funds not appropriated within the caps will be available in the next fiscal year for appropriation for activities within the same program category. In addition, each year, the total amount available for appropriation is increased by \$160,000,000 for the Land Conservation, Preservation and Infrastructure Improvement Program. That increase is not subject to the "fenced caps", but is available for the eligible programs herein, in addition to the capped amounts. The House and Senate Committees on Appropriations have the discretion to determine the extent to which these funds will be appropriated. The additional, "unfenced" amount available will be \$160,000,000 in fiscal year 2002, \$320,000,000 in fiscal year 2003, \$480,000,000 in fiscal year 2004, \$640,000,000 in fiscal year 2005 and \$800,000,000 in fiscal year 2006.

Eligible programs include:

- Federal land acquisition
- State land and water conservation grants
- Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program

- Backlog maintenance (land management agencies)
- Payments in Lieu of Taxes
- Historic Preservation
- Youth Conservation Corps
- U.S. Geological Survey's State Planning Partnership programs, Community/Federal Information Partnership, Urban Dynamics, and Decision Support for Resource Management
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's North American Wetlands Conservation Fund, Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund, and State Wildlife Grants
- Forest Service's State and Private Forestry, Forest Legacy Program, Urban and Community Forestry, Smart Growth Partnerships and additional funding for planning, inventory and monitoring
- Department of Commerce/NOAA's Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery, NOAA Operations, Research, and Facilities, the Coastal Zone Management Act programs, the National Marine Sanctuaries, the National Estuarine Research Reserve Systems, Coral Restoration programs, Coastal Impact Assistance and the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Program

TITLE IX

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

BUREAU OF THE PUBLIC DEBT

GIFTS TO THE UNITED STATES FOR REDUCTION OF THE PUBLIC DEBT

The conference agreement provides \$5 billion to be used to reduce the amount of debt held by the public.