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## National Park Service: FY2020 Appropriations

The National Park Service (NPS) administers the National Park System, which includes 421 units valued for their natural, cultural, and recreational importance and covers 85 million acres (81 million acres of federal land and 4 million nonfederal). As an agency in the Department of the Interior, NPS receives funding in annual appropriations laws for Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies. This CRS product discusses NPS’s FY2020 appropriations; for information on FY2021, see CRS In Focus IF11661, *National Park Service: FY2021 Appropriations*.

### FY2020 Appropriations

P.L. 116-94, the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020, was enacted on December 20, 2019. The act provided \$3.377 billion for NPS, 5% more than the enacted FY2019 regular appropriation of \$3.223 billion. It included increases for five NPS accounts and a reduction for one account, as compared with the FY2019 regular appropriation (**Table 1**).

FY2020 appropriations in P.L. 116-94 were 23% higher than the Trump Administration’s request of \$2.742 billion. The enacted discretionary appropriation exceeded the Administration’s request for each NPS budget account.

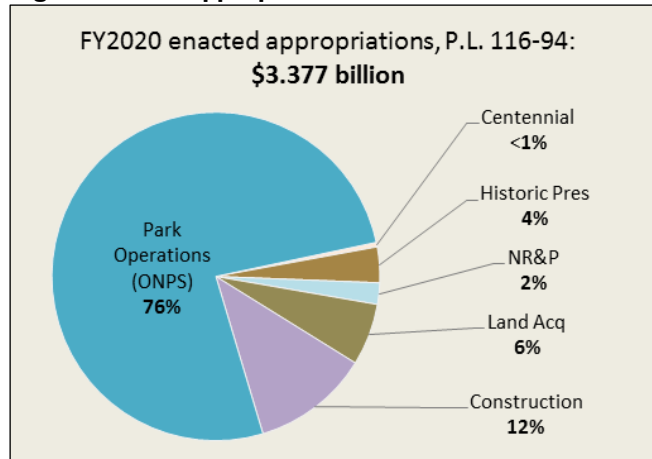
In addition to discretionary appropriations, NPS reported mandatory appropriations for FY2020 of \$0.741 billion, an increase of 1% over NPS mandatory funding for FY2019. These mandatory appropriations come from entrance and recreation fees, concessioner fees, donations, and other sources, and they are used for a variety of specified purposes, including deferred maintenance.

In earlier action, on June 25, 2019, the House had passed H.R. 3055, an FY2020 consolidated appropriations bill with \$3.362 billion for NPS (also see H.Rept. 116-100 on H.R. 3052, an earlier stand-alone House Interior bill). On October 31, 2019, the Senate had passed its version of H.R. 3055, with \$3.356 billion for NPS (also see S.Rept. 116-123 on S. 2580, a Senate stand-alone bill). Because FY2020 appropriations were not enacted by the start of the fiscal year, two continuing resolutions, P.L. 116-59 and P.L. 116-69, provided continuing appropriations at FY2019 levels prior to enactment of P.L. 116-94.

### NPS’s Appropriations Accounts

NPS had six discretionary appropriations accounts funded in FY2020 (**Figure 1** and **Table 1**). About 76% of the appropriation went to the Operation of the National Park System (ONPS) account to support day-to-day activities, programs, and services at park units. These include resource stewardship, visitor services, park protection, facility operations and maintenance, and administrative costs. The FY2020 appropriation for the ONPS account was \$2.577 billion; the Administration had requested \$2.426 billion.

**Figure 1. NPS Appropriations Accounts for FY2020**



**Source:** Joint explanatory statement for P.L. 116-94.

**Notes:** ONPS = Operation of the National Park System. NR&P = National Recreation and Preservation.

The next-largest amount, 12% of the regular appropriation, went to NPS’s Construction account, which covers rehabilitation and replacement of existing facilities as well as new construction. A focus of the account is deferred maintenance projects, which are prioritized by NPS based on department-wide criteria related to the condition of assets and their importance to the park’s purposes. The account also covers other construction activities and planning functions. P.L. 116-94 appropriated \$389.3 million for the NPS Construction account for FY2020; the Administration’s request was \$246.3 million.

Approximately 6% of the FY2020 discretionary appropriation went to the Land Acquisition and State Assistance (LASA) account. These monies came from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF; 54 U.S.C. §§200301 et seq.), the primary funding source for the federal land management agencies to acquire lands. For more information on the LWCF, see CRS Report RL33531, *Land and Water Conservation Fund: Overview, Funding History, and Issues*. NPS’s LASA account covers both NPS’s own acquisitions (typically consisting of nonfederal “inholdings” inside the boundaries of national park units) and grants to states for outdoor recreation needs. The FY2020 appropriation included \$68.4 million for NPS acquisitions and \$140.0 million for state assistance, along with a \$2.3 million rescission, for a total of \$206.1 million. The federal portion included \$13.0 million for American Battlefield Protection Program grants to assist states and localities with acquiring threatened battlefields. The Administration had requested \$4.8 million in total for the LASA account, with no project funding for new NPS acquisitions and none for state assistance.

About 4% of the FY2020 discretionary appropriation was for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) account. The HPF was established by the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. §§300101 et seq.). The fund receives \$150 million annually from offshore energy revenues, but monies are available only as provided in appropriations acts. P.L. 116-94 provided \$118.7 million for FY2020, primarily for NPS formula grants to state and tribal historic preservation offices to conserve cultural and historical assets and sites. Portions of the total also were for competitive grant programs, historically black colleges and universities, and historic revitalization, as well as the Save America's Treasures program (which preserves nationally significant sites, structures, and artifacts). The Administration had requested \$32.7 million overall for the HPF account.

The National Recreation and Preservation (NR&P) account received about 2% of the FY2020 total appropriation. This account funds NPS programs that assist state, local, tribal, and private land managers with outdoor recreation planning, resource preservation, and other activities. The largest single program funded through the account is NPS assistance to national heritage areas. The FY2020 appropriation for the NR&P account was \$71.2 million, of which \$21.9 million was for national heritage areas. The

Administration had requested \$32.3 million for the account, of which \$0.4 million was for national heritage areas.

Less than 1% of the FY2020 appropriation went to the Centennial Challenge account, to support the National Park Centennial Challenge Fund. Authorized by Congress in 2016 (54 U.S.C. §§103501 et seq.), the fund provides matching grants to spur donations for projects or programs that further the NPS mission and enhance the visitor experience. Deferred maintenance projects are prioritized. The FY2020 appropriation for the account was \$15.0 million; the Administration had requested no discretionary funding. The Centennial Challenge Fund also is authorized to receive offsetting collections from the sale of senior passes under the Federal Lands Recreational Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. §§6801-6814), and the Administration estimated that FY2020 offsetting collections would be \$1.4 million.

### For More Information

For more information, see CRS Report R42757, *National Park Service Appropriations: Ten-Year Trends*; and CRS Report R45875, *Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies: Overview of FY2020 Appropriations*.

**Table I. NPS Discretionary Appropriations by Account (\$ in millions)**

Account	FY2019 Enacted (P.L. 116-6)	FY2020 Request	House-Passed H.R. 3055	Senate-Passed H.R. 3055	FY2020 Enacted (P.L. 116-94)	% Change FY2019-FY2020
Operation of the Nat'l. Park System	2,502.7	2,425.5	2,647.0	2,564.6	2,577.0	+3%
Construction	364.7	246.3	319.7	392.2	389.3	+7%
Land Acquisition and State Assistance	168.4	4.8	208.4	197.6	206.1	+22%
Historic Preservation Fund	102.7	32.7	121.7	113.2	118.7	+16%
Nat'l. Recreation and Preservation	64.1	32.3	73.5	68.1	71.2	+11%
Centennial Challenge	20.0	0	20.0	20.0	15.0	-25%
LWCF Rescission of Contract Authority	—	—	-28.1	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,222.7</b>	<b>2,741.7</b>	<b>3,362.1</b>	<b>3,355.6</b>	<b>3,377.3</b>	<b>+5%</b>

**Sources:** H.Rept. 116-9; NPS FY2020 budget request; H.Rept. 116-100; S.Rept. 116-123; and joint explanatory statement for P.L. 116-94. LWCF = Land and Water Conservation Fund.

**Notes:** Totals may not sum precisely due to rounding. Table does not reflect FY2019 supplemental appropriations of \$128.0 million in P.L. 116-20 (provided as emergency spending outside of discretionary spending limits).

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