

Rocky Mountain District

Resource Advisory Council

Sept. 19, 2024



Bureau of Land Management

Funding and Budget Overview

A scenic view of a river with a steel truss bridge and a rafting party. The bridge is a large, grey metal structure with a complex truss design. Below it, a white inflatable raft with several people is navigating a section of rapids. The background features a rocky, forested hillside under a clear sky.

Areas of Discussion

- **Roles of Involved Parties**
- **Congressional Funding**
- **Distribution of Funding**
- **Reporting and Feedback**
- **Non-Congressional Funding Sources**



Roles of Involved Parties

- **White House and U.S. Congress**
- **DOI**
- **BLM HQ**
- **BLM CO state office and program leads**
- **District manager**
 - **Assist the state office in funding negotiations, set district-wide funding priorities, make allocation adjustments, request funding for district-level projects**
- **Field managers and staff**
 - **Forecast funding needs, assist in negotiating workload targets, track staff labor, provide spending and workload oversight**



Congressional Funding

- **Based on the needs of the organization – informed by feedback from field, district, and state offices – the BLM presents its budgetary needs to the DOI.**
- **The Secretary of the Interior presents the agency’s funding needs to the White House.**
- **After Office of Management and Budget review, the White House submits a request to Congress to fund the Department of the Interior.**
- **Following the complexities of passing a Congressional budget, the DOI receives its funding for the year**
- **The cycle of funding, spending, feedback, review, and new funding requests takes about three years to complete. This means we are always at multiple stages in that cycle.**



Distribution of Funding

- **Congress funds the DOI, and the DOI funds the BLM**
- **BLM HQ issues preliminary funding levels – called planning target allocations (PTAs) – to the state offices. These are then negotiated between HQ and state offices, factoring in workload targets. This helps develop broad program directives.**
- **The state offices and program leads then repeat this process with the district and field offices, resulting in preliminary funding levels to achieve more focused program directives.**
- **After Congress passes the budget and it is signed by the President, BLM HQ and its downstream offices can finalize annual work plans and program directives, all of which depend upon this funding.**
- **Funding tends to remain consistent. However, operations costs are outpacing funding to a considerable degree.**

Reporting and Feedback



- Quarterly reviews and year-end closeouts help to ensure spending is in line with program goals. They also help assess funding needs across various program areas.
- Feedback is collected from field and district offices as part of the state office's reporting to BLM HQ, and is factored into the budget request made by DOI each year.
- Feedback is also used to adjust workload and program planning to accommodate changing priorities and costs associated with program management.



Non-Congressional Funding Sources

- Reimbursements and transfers for work the BLM does for other agencies (cadastral, etc.)
- Permanent fund programs, which generate fees that stay within the organization collecting them (recreation fees, etc.)
- **Special funds?**
- **Donations/volunteer labor?**