

Committee on Natural Resources
Oversight Hearing
1324 Longworth House Office Building
March 27, 2019
10:00 am

Hearing on “*Examining the Department of the Interior’s Spending Priorities and the President’s Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Proposal*”

Questions from Rep. Mike Johnson for Mr. Scott Cameron, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget for the Department of the Interior

1. The Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Fund, also known as the Restoration Fund, was created to restore natural resources injured as a result of oil spills or hazardous substance releases into the environment. The President’s FY20 budget request shows that there is currently \$1.4 billion in the Restoration Fund that is waiting for expenditure. Furthermore, an estimated \$8.8 billion will be added to the fund from 2017-2031 from the Deepwater Horizon settlement. What steps is the Department taking to ensure these funds are utilized quickly and efficiently in order to maximize ecosystem restoration?
2. What is the Department’s oversight plan to limit fraud, waste, and abuse as the Restoration Fund is expected to grow significantly over the next 12 years?