

Legislative Requirement for Comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan

Text of the requirement for the Forest Service to establish a Comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan was included in the Congressional Record dated March 22, 2018 (vol. 164, No. 50, Book 11) as part of the Joint Explanatory Statement of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018, under Division G, Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2018. Text below is as it appeared in the Congressional Record.

March 22, 2018

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

H2627

Lake Tahoe.—The Committees are encouraged by the work conducted in the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and expect the Service to prioritize funding the implementation of P.L. 106–506, as amended, and to do so in consultation with affected States, local governments, and other stakeholders. Within 60 days of enactment of this Act, the Service shall report to the Committees on these activities and the funding that will be allocated in fiscal year 2018.

Tongass National Forest.—Without a comprehensive stand-level inventory, the transition plan described by the Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan Amendment lacks the scientific basis needed for success, and no less than \$1,000,000 is provided for the continuation of the inventory currently underway. The Committees expect the Service to meet the requirements of section 705(a) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 539d(a)) and to consider a plan revision or new plan amendment based on the results of the inventory. Any plan revision or amendment should include a timber management program sufficient to preserve a viable timber industry in the region. Until the Service has determined, based on a completed stand-level inventory, the timing and supply of economic young growth needed for a successful final transition and whether the 2016 Forest Plan should be amended or revised, the Service is directed not to implement a final transition away from its Tongass old growth timber program to a program based primarily on young growth.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The agreement provides \$449,000,000 for Capital Improvement and Maintenance pro-

grams. This includes \$49,986,000 made available by discontinuing the use of Cost-Pool 9 and \$35,000,000 in one-time infrastructure funding to address deferred maintenance.

Legacy Roads and Trails.—The Committees recognize the need to remediate legacy roads and trails and direct the Service to address these projects as they rank in priority along with all other infrastructure needs from the appropriations provided for roads and trails through the Capital Improvement and Maintenance account and provide \$40,000,000 within the Roads budget line item.

Smokejumper Bases.—The agreement provides funds for repairs, maintenance, and upgrades at smokejumper bases to ensure operational readiness.

Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests.—The Committees urge the Service to address longstanding capital improvement needs in the Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forests, particularly those that will save the Service money while also improving the public's access and use of these forests.

Comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan.—The Service is directed to establish a long-term, multi-year plan to guide needed investments in buildings, facilities, transportation systems, and other infrastructure by December 30, 2018. The plan should: (1) establish a process for setting and ranking construction and maintenance priorities; (2) reflect the Service's mission, goals, and requirements; (3) identify facilities, roads, and other infrastructure that should be disposed of or decommissioned; (4) consider existing investments in planning, construction, and maintenance, as well as deferred maintenance needs; and (5) identify future needs for investment to improve the physical infra-

structure and health of the national forests. The plan also should include estimated funding requirements. In future budget requests, the Service is directed to provide the Committees with a list of any proposed construction project with a cost greater than \$1,000,000.

LAND ACQUISITION

The agreement provides \$64,337,000 for Land Acquisition. The amounts provided by this bill compared with the budget estimates by activity and project are shown in the table below, listed in priority order pursuant to the project list received for fiscal year 2018. The Service is expected to use the Critical Inholdings/Wilderness account to acquire high priority lands, such as wilderness and lands of significant value in designated conservation units, to consolidate Federal ownership. The Committees strongly encourage the Service to close projects once funds have been made available, an appraisal has been completed, and a purchase contract has been agreed to. Further instructions are contained under the Land and Water Conservation Fund heading in the front of this explanatory statement.

The Committees support the continuation of efforts to resolve the long-standing management challenges regarding school trust lands within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in the Superior National Forest in Minnesota and encourage the Service to collaborate with nonprofit partners on the private forestland exchange alternative, which will provide the added benefit of preserving valuable forestlands outside of Superior National Forest.

