

Calendar No. 452

115TH CONGRESS }
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
115-276

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2019

JUNE 14, 2018.—Ordered to be printed

Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Appropriations,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 3073]

The Committee on Appropriations reports the bill (S. 3073) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, reports favorably thereon and recommends that the bill do pass.

Total obligatory authority, fiscal year 2019

Total of bill as reported to the Senate	\$35,914,720,000
Amount of 2018 appropriations	36,589,147,000
Amount of 2019 budget estimate	28,338,610,000
Bill as recommended to Senate compared to—	
2018 appropriations	– 674,427,000
2019 budget estimate	+ 7,576,110,000

resources which will facilitate increasing discovery, production, and domestic refining of critical minerals.

Delivery of Reports and Correspondence.—All reports, correspondence, and reprogramming requests from the agencies to the Committee shall be provided in both physical and electronic formats.

Dead and Downed Trees.—The Committee is concerned by the substantial increase in the number of dead and downed trees as a result of drought and invasive pests on public lands in the West managed by the Forest Service, National Park Service, and Bureau of Land Management. Given the increased potential for devastating wildfires, the Committee directs the Forest Service, National Park Service, and Bureau of Land Management to work with State and local governments to facilitate the prompt removal of these trees and to prioritize funding for projects that reduce fire threats to communities, drinking water supplies, and utilities.

21st Century Conservation Service Corps and Public Lands Corps.—The Department of Interior, its subdivisions, and the Forest Service are directed to continue their partnerships with the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (also referred to as 21CSC), and Public Lands Corps, in order to accomplish access, conservation, wildfire, maintenance backlog, and infrastructure projects and engage additional youth and veterans as detailed and authorized in the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. Chapter 37, Subchapter II).

Harassment-Free Workplace.—The Department of Interior, Forest Service, and Environmental Protection Agency are directed to report to the Committee within 120 days of the enactment of this act on agency actions to address harassment of employees, including plans to improve monitoring, training and enforcement, and implement policies that prevent retaliation. The reports shall include a detailed list of any actions taken or expected to be taken during fiscal years 2018 and 2019.

Ethics Compliance in Spending Federal Funds.—The Committee feels strongly that it is essential that agencies provided funding in this act comply with all applicable ethics regulations. To that end, the Committee directs that none of the funds made available in this act may be used in contravention of 5 CFR 2635, the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch.

Deferred Maintenance.—The Committee has made a concerted effort to address the backlog maintenance needs on our public lands and directs the Department of the Interior and Forest Service to maintain an updated 5-year deferred maintenance plans that, to the extent practicable, include a list of all outstanding deferred maintenance needs, and to provide them to the Committee upon request.

Coral Reef Health.—The Committee is concerned that emerging coral diseases have proven to be a major source of coral mortality, especially along the Florida Reef Tract, and pose a significant obstacle to coral reef restoration efforts. The Committee encourages the Department of the Interior to work with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, as well as state and territorial government partners, to support coral monitoring, research, and restoration efforts in highly impacted and high priority coral reef